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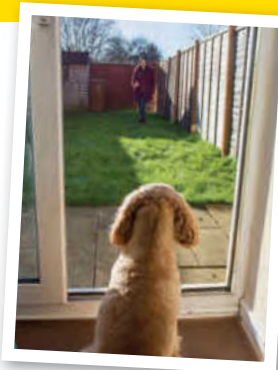
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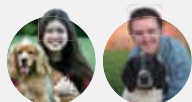


## WHO'S WHO AT YOUR DOG

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# Editor's letter

I was enthralled by this month's lead article — 'Making sense of the senses'. How many of us stop and think about how our dogs view the world when we're out walking, or when we take them to the shops, or even when we're giving them a cuddle on the sofa? Well, we all will from now on, thanks to Carol Price's fascinating feature. And there's more to come in the April issue when Carol focuses on that most significant of senses (for dogs), the sense of smell.

Next month represents a major date in the dog owners' calendar, as from April 6, all dogs in England, Scotland, and Wales will have to be microchipped to comply with the law. If you haven't had your pet chipped yet, our feature on page 27 is a comprehensive guide to the whole process, and tackles some of the most frequently asked questions about microchipping.

If you're lucky enough to be thinking about getting a puppy this year, check out behaviourist Jackie Drakeford's advice. Going to view a litter can be a daunting experience, so it's best to be prepared. Jackie has lots of tips on what to look out for, both physically and temperamentally, in the ideal pup.

Finally, you'd better get your hankies out before reading 'When Dusty came home', reader Lesley Andrew's reminiscence about the little dog who stole her heart and survived a gruelling ordeal against the odds — a great story.

*Sarah Wright*  
Editor



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH...

"They had buried him under our elm tree, they said — yet this was not totally true. For he really lay buried in my heart."

Willie Morris, author of 'My Dog Skip'.



Pic: Mark Taylor, Warren Photographic Ltd.

## COVER STAR

This month it's yellow Labrador Holly, otherwise known as Dandyamber Emma's Fancy, and the

much-loved pet of Emma Green, from Aldershot, Hampshire. Emma describes Holly as "the most amazing,

sweet, and laid-back dog I have ever owned. She takes everything in her stride, especially if it involves food!"





# 46

MAKING YOUR  
MIND PUP.

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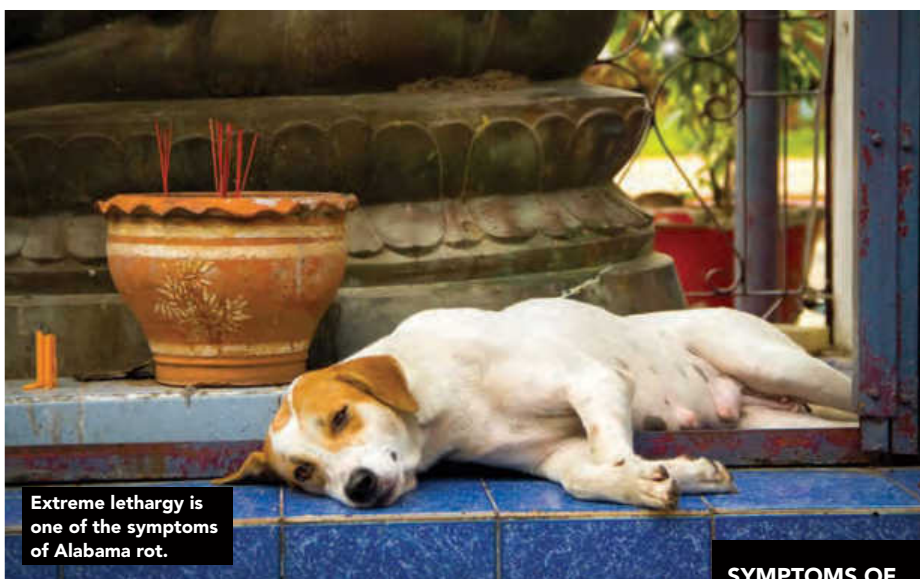
...take the perfect photo of your dog. Discover how to capture your pet looking at his best with our photography tips.



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**THE STAFFORDSHIRE  
BULL TERRIER.**





Extreme lethargy is one of the symptoms of Alabama rot.

## OWNERS REASSURED ABOUT ALABAMA ROT

Owners anxious about the spread of a fatal disease in dogs in the UK have been told not to be unduly worried.

Recent cases of Alabama rot have been reported in the countryside across Britain, from Cornwall up to south of Glasgow.

The 'Vet Report 2015' by veterinary chain Vets4Pets reported that the number of confirmed cases in the UK stood at 56, but experts are still no closer to understanding what causes the condition or how it can be prevented.

Five new counties in Britain have suspected cases of Alabama rot, a disease that can lead to skin wounds, kidney failure, and eventually death.

However, the British Veterinary Association (BVA) has tried to reassure worried owners, and said the likelihood of their dog being affected was very low.

Sean Wensby, BVA president, said:

"Dog owners in areas of the UK where Alabama rot has been detected will understandably feel anxious about the reported cases, but the risk is low with only a small proportion of dogs in these areas having been affected.

"Owners should make sure they are aware of the signs and symptoms, such as skin sores on the limb extremities, and contact their local vet immediately if they have any concerns."

Alabama rot is a flesh-eating disease which first appeared in the late 1980s in Greyhounds in America.

### SYMPTOMS OF ALABAMA ROT

- Skin lesions about the size of a five-pence piece, often on the lower leg, below the knee and elbow.
- Kidney failure within two to seven days, which may cause vomiting, tiredness, and lack of appetite.

## New products



### PITPAT

**Price:** £39.99.

This gadget tracks dogs' movements 24/7. The device attaches to the dog's collar to monitor activity levels and help owners ensure their pet gets enough exercise.

It comes with a free app which you download on to your phone, allowing you to get a breakdown of your dog's walking, playing, and resting, and how his activity compares to daily guidelines based on his age, weight, and breed.

**Where to buy:** [www.pitpatpet.com](http://www.pitpatpet.com); pet and high street retailers.

● Turn to our Freebies section on page 25 to win a PitPat.

### DOG-THEMED JEWELLERY

**Price:** From £49.

This Whippet dog-walking bracelet is part of a new collection by up and coming British jewellery designer, Amanda Coleman. The range also features earrings and necklaces, all featuring stylish dog charms. Each piece is available in sterling silver, black ruthenium plate, and 22ct gold vermeil; different breeds are available too.

**Where to buy:** [www.amandacoleman.co.uk](http://www.amandacoleman.co.uk) and stockists across the UK.



## A GREAT READ — get stuck into these three new dog titles.



**'German Shepherds: A Practical Guide for Owners and Breeders'** by Allison Clarke

and Lizzy Brown (The Crowood Press, £19.95).

Includes all aspects of owning and caring for the breed including health care, nutrition, training, and history.

**'The Total Dog Manual'** by David Meyer, Abbie Moore, and Dr Pia Salk (Quiller Publishing, £18.95).

Everything you need to know about our canine companions, from training and grooming tips to understanding how your dog sees the world.



**'Doodle a Poodle'** by Hannah Rollings (LOM Art, £7.99).

Have fun drawing, colouring, and learning about over 30 breeds of dog, in this twist on classic drawing books.



● These books are available to buy from the Your Dog Bookshop; visit [www.yourdog.co.uk/bookshop](http://www.yourdog.co.uk/bookshop)



### BEDS AND LOUNGERS

**Price:** From £39.99.

Top quality, sturdy beds from Trixie, featuring hardwearing covers and filling materials that keep their shape for high comfort.

**Where to buy:** Visit [www.trixie.de](http://www.trixie.de) for stockists.



# Did you know?

Eighty four per cent of pet owners felt having a dog helped them to have more positive relationships with other people.

Sixty two per cent of owners strongly view their dog as a source of emotional support.

Nearly sixty five per cent of people said they felt more confident meeting new people if their dog was also present.

More than seventy per cent of people believe their dog is good for their mental health.

Ninety eight per cent of people surveyed agreed that their pet was a member of the family.

Many people believe dogs offer emotional support.

\* Survey by Medi@Animal involving more than 2,200 respondents who own one or more pets.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### BRITISH COUPLE CLONE DEAD DOG

A couple from Yorkshire are the first in the UK to have their dog cloned by a company in South Korea.

Laura Jacques and her partner, Richard Remde, employed the services of Sooam Biotech Research Foundation, which offers a dog cloning service, to clone their beloved Boxer Dylan, who died last year.

Two puppies born around Christmas have identical DNA to Dylan and are likely to resemble him physically and share some of his personality.

Sooam is the leading laboratory in the world for dog cloning, and has produced more than 700 dogs for commercial customers.

There is currently no regulation on the cloning of pets.

### DOGS INSPIRE WOODLAND TALE

A daily dog walk to a local wood has inspired one owner to write an award-winning tale.

Terry Lawrence, 70, was crowned winner of the Woodland Trust's national 'A Walk in the Woods' competition, which asked people to write in and tell them about their special visits to woods.

Terry, from Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, used to visit Pepper Wood every day with her Border Collies Floss and Peggy. Her story weaved together the beauty of the trees through the eyes of her canine friends, who have now died.



Terry's dogs, Floss and Peggy.

## DOGS CAN RECOGNISE HUMAN EMOTIONS

Dogs can recognise human emotions by combining information from different senses, it has been discovered.

Researchers from the University of Lincoln have found that dogs must form abstract mental representations of positive and negative emotional states. They are not simply displaying learned behaviours when responding to the expressions of people and other dogs.

This ability has never

previously been observed outside of humans. It has been a long-standing debate whether dogs can recognise human emotions, with many owners claiming their pets seem highly sensitive to their moods.



Dogs recognise emotions.

Researcher Dr Kun Guo, from the University of Lincoln's School of Psychology, said: "Previous studies have indicated that dogs can differentiate between human emotions from cues such as facial expressions, but this is not the same as emotional recognition.

"Our study shows that dogs have the ability to integrate two different sources of sensory information into a coherent perception of emotion in both humans and dogs.



Louis wants to inspire pet owners to exercise.

5 MINUTES WITH...

# OLYMPIC GYMNAST AND MEDALLIST LOUIS SMITH



Louis with Luna.

## Q Tell us about your dog?

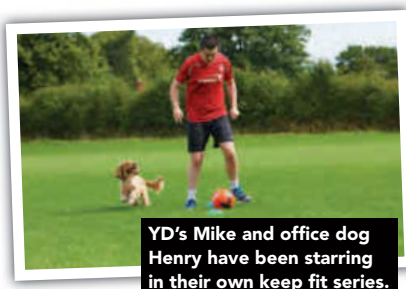
**A** "I have a Siberian Husky called Luna. I picked her up in May last year after I got back from the European Championships. She's a lovely girl, a real softie.

"Luna is bonkers and is always up to no good. I know when she's done something naughty as I can usually find her in the corner of the room with soppy eyes.

"I grew up with dogs. My mum had her first Cavalier when I was seven. After he died she got two more Cavaliers and my brother also bought one. They're lovely dogs — and very different to a Husky."

## Q Why did you get Luna?

**A** "I did a lot of research into the type of dog I wanted. I didn't want a dog that was too small or too big, but a breed with a lot of personality. Huskies don't have a lot of health issues.



YD's Mike and office dog Henry have been starring in their own keep fit series.

We went to see the breeder and saw Luna's parents. Luna was very different to the rest of the pups; she was the ring leader. I knew straight away I wanted her."

## Q How do you fit in owning a dog with your busy lifestyle?

**A** "I only train once a day now, for two-and-a-half hours, and it's not far from where I live. If I'm going to be away in the evening my mum looks after Luna for the night, or if I won't be around for a couple of days she stays in my house. There's a kennels nearby that also looks after Luna. The kennels' owners have a black Labrador and they joke that he's Luna's boyfriend."

## Q Tell us about the pet exercise video you've done with More Th>n?

**A** "I'm heavily into sports and have always tried to inspire people to get involved.

"When my agent spoke to me about the fitness DVD, I read the brief and some research which said one in three dogs was overweight and that obesity in pets was a big problem — he didn't need to say any more to convince me.

"I really enjoyed making the video and the two dogs I worked with were brilliant. It was my first time working with dogs on a shoot."

## Q Do you exercise with Luna?

**A** "I take her on long walks in a massive farmer's field where she goes crazy, and likes to run in circles at 30mph. She's only a year old so she's got lots of energy. I have to walk her on a 40m long line; if I let her off the lead she's off.

"Lucy (Louis's girlfriend) and I recently took her to a big lake following a five-mile walk. She ran full-pelt into the lake chasing swans. Her tail was wagging and she wanted to play with them. Luckily, I managed to grab the lead when she was a few metres away from the swans."

## Q Will you be taking up heelwork to music in light of your dancing success on 'Strictly'?

**A** "It's unbelievable the obedience of the dogs and the patience of the trainers.

"If Luna could do a real foxtrot I would be happy to join in with her, but she hasn't got the patience to learn!"

## PETSERCISE

Louis has teamed up with More Th>n pet insurance and Wagglepets to create a pet workout video. He teamed up with two dogs to perform exercises developed by a vet.



## WHAT'S ON IN MARCH?



**March 10 to 13:** March means it's time for the world's greatest dog show, Crufts. Get ready for four days of action-packed activities, displays, competitions, demonstrations, and, of course, the winner of Best in Show.

Find out who wins the top cross-breed crown when the final of Scruffts, the Family Cross-breed of the Year competition, takes place on the Saturday, judged by British author Jilly Cooper. For further information visit [www.crufts.org.uk](http://www.crufts.org.uk)

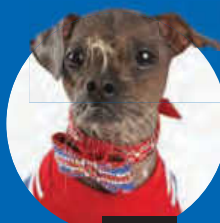
**March 29:** Animal Carer Experience Day, Wood Green The Animals Charity, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire; young animal lovers can get hands-on experience with animals. Booking is essential. Visit [www.woodgreen.org.uk](http://www.woodgreen.org.uk) or email [handson@woodgreen.org.uk](mailto:handson@woodgreen.org.uk)

## The GOSS!

What everyone's talking about in the office and online.

Did you know that dogs' senses are remarkably different to our own? The YD team learned some interesting facts about how dogs see the world, after reading the brilliant feature by trainer Carol Price in this issue. Turn to page 14 to be amazed.

We were pleased to hear that the World's Ugliest Dog, Mugly, has another award under his belt. The Peterborough-based dog has been crowned PetSafe Pet Hero 2015 for his charitable work. Well done Mugly!



Mugly.

Our Facebook fans have been airing their views on professional dog walkers and whether more regulation is needed, following an appeal from the Kennel Club.

Here are some of your comments: **Lynsey Hughes said:** "I'm setting up a dog-walking business and I think there

needs to be more regulation, as anyone can do it without qualifications or insurance."

**Lauren Thomas said:** "I always tell my customers to go on recommendation. Your dog will soon tell you if they are happy or getting what they need."

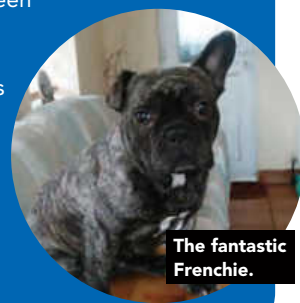
Do you know anyone with a natural connection to dogs? The topic came up in the YD office recently when we discussed how dogs are naturally drawn to certain people — and this is something that cannot be learned. What do you think?

You've been sharing

pictures of your French Bulldogs on Facebook.

Do you have a French Bulldog?

Tell us what you like best about them.



The fantastic Frenchie.

## HAVING A LAUGH!

### SEND US YOUR FUNNY DOG PHOTOS

Does your dog make you laugh with his antics?

We are inviting owners to send in funny photos of their canine friends, along with witty captions that sum up the image, for our photo caption competition.

Each month we select one entrant whose photo and caption appears in the magazine. The lucky winner receives a prize courtesy of our sponsor, Webbox. This month's winner receives a treat hamper for their dog.

To enter, send your photo and caption, along with your and your dog's name, your address, and dog's breed, to:

**Your Dog Magazine (Having a laugh!), 1-6 Buckminster Yard, Main Street, Buckminster, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG33 5SB.**

Alternatively, email your entries to [k.felstead@bpgmedia.co.uk](mailto:k.felstead@bpgmedia.co.uk)

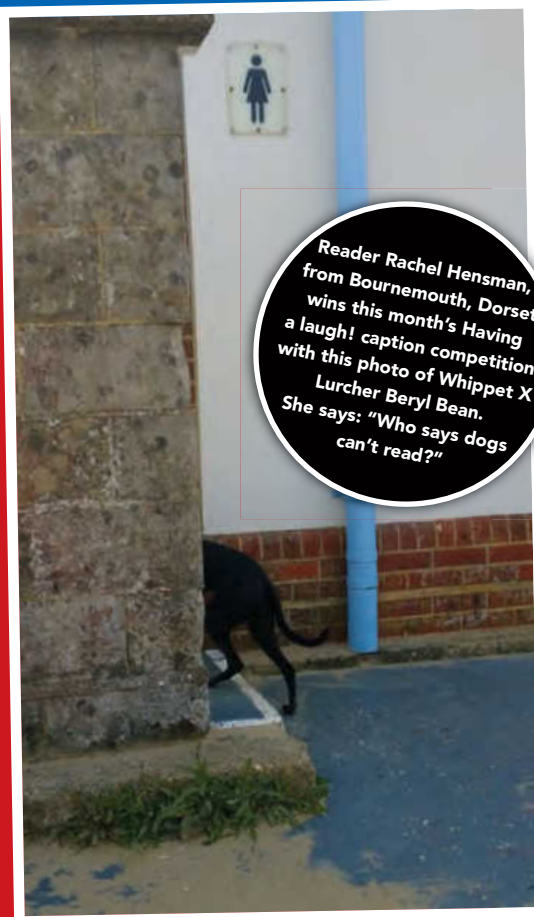
Please ensure the photos you submit are clear, in focus, and high resolution, otherwise they won't be accepted.



Dogs who suffer from allergies can also benefit from natural products such as gluten wheat-free Webbox Chomping Chews and Webbox Chicken Chips.

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Reader Rachel Hensman, from Bournemouth, Dorset, wins this month's Having a laugh! caption competition with this photo of Whippet X Lurcher Beryl Bean. She says: "Who says dogs can't read?"

### SPONSORED BY WEBBOX

Webbox offers a selection of tasty and low-fat treats to keep your dog happy and healthy all year round. Boasting rich meat content alongside added health benefits, Webbox treats promote a balanced diet to complement your dog's daily meals.

The ever-popular Dogs Delight Tasty Dog Sticks contain over 95 per cent fresh meat and have been specially designed with the smaller pet in mind.



## 3 ways to welcome spring with your dog...

Enjoy the countryside on a springtime walk.

**1** Many attractions such as dog-friendly gardens once again open their gates in March. Pay a visit to one near you and look at the seasonal flowers blooming.

**2** March is often filled with sunny, cold days — the perfect opportunity to get out and explore the countryside with your canine friend.

**3** Book a dog-friendly, springtime break. Can't decide where to go? Our dedicated holiday website allows you to search for dog-friendly accommodation across the UK; visit [www.yourdogholidays.co.uk](http://www.yourdogholidays.co.uk)

## QATAR DOG WINS VET PET AWARD

A young Anatolian Shepherd Dog has won an award in recognition of his bravery recovering from major surgery, following his rescue from a shelter in Qatar.

Joshua, from Manchester, received ChesterGates Veterinary Specialists' Pet of The Month crown.

His owner, Eveline Ludlow, discovered Joshua in a shelter in Doha and couldn't face leaving him behind when she returned to the UK.

She realised he was suffering from severe physical deformities and that this, coupled with his incredible size, would impact his chance of finding a new home.

Eveline later found Joshua had severe forearm dysplasia with his front feet almost at right angles to his body.

Undeterred, Eveline set about fund-raising for Joshua's various inoculations and complicated travel arrangements to the UK.

She said: "Joshua never really stood a chance out there. Overcrowding and underfunding are such a serious issue in the Qatari animal shelters.

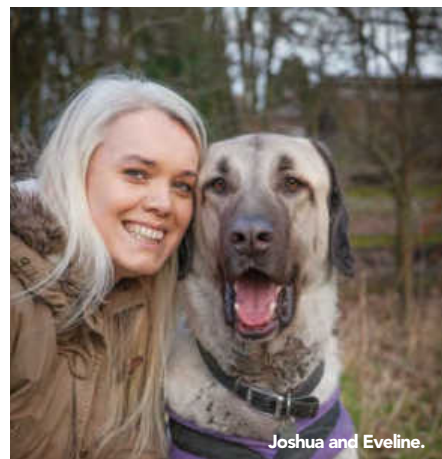
"In some lucky cases, animals are adopted overseas but with Joshua's size and urgent need of expensive surgery he was the least likely to be rehomed, and one of the most expensive animals to accommodate.

"It would only have been a matter of time before the unthinkable decision would have had to be made."

On Joshua's arrival in the UK, Eveline immediately sought advice from her local vet's and was referred to ChesterGates Veterinary Specialists' team of orthopaedic experts.

The operation went well and Joshua is able to play, and lead a more active life.

Eveline added: "The award is a real compliment to his fortitude and to all those who helped get him here."



Joshua and Eveline.

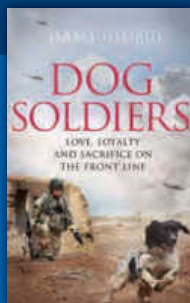
## Review

**'Dog Soldiers' by Isabel George (Harper Element, £12.99).**

A heartwarming read about two army dog handlers — Lance Corporal Kenneth Rowe and Lance Corporal Liam Tasker — who lost their lives in Afghanistan with their dogs Sasha and Theo at their side.

The emotional introduction will immediately leave you teary-eyed but also eager to read further. This is a real-life story that will stay with you long after you've finished the last page.

Parts of 'Dog Soldiers' are told through the words of Kenneth and



Liam's mothers, Lyn Rowe and Jane Duffy. The first chapter begins in the early hours of the morning of July 25, 2008, a day Lyn will remember forever when she received the news that her son had been killed in Helmand Province. His beloved dog, Sasha, had fallen alongside him.

The mothers' loss is evident throughout the story, but so is the boys' courage and the love they had for their dogs.

A truly touching memorial to two young men and their dogs who gave their lives for Queen and country.

If you only buy one real-life story this year, make sure it's 'Dog Soldiers'. Rating: 5/5.

## Competition!

### 10 COPIES OF 'DOG SOLDIERS' TO BE WON!

**F**ancy getting hold of a copy of 'Dog Soldiers'?

We have teamed up with Harper Element to give you the chance to win a copy of the book. There are 10 copies of 'Dog Soldiers' up for grabs. For your chance to win, answer the question above and send your answer, along with your name, address, and daytime telephone number, on the back of a postcard or sealed envelope, to: **Your Dog Magazine ('Dog Soldiers' competition), 1-6 Buckminster Yard, Main Street, Buckminster, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG33 5SB**, or enter online by visiting [www.yourdog.co.uk/competitions](http://www.yourdog.co.uk/competitions)

The closing date is March 15, 2016.

Terms and conditions: The winners will be the first 10 correct entries drawn after the closing date. Open to residents of the UK only. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Full competition rules available on request. BPG Media and Harper Element may use your details to let you know about other products or services you might be interested in. If you don't wish to receive this information, please write 'no' in the top left-hand corner of your entry, or tick the appropriate box on your online entry.



**Who is the author of 'Dog Soldiers'?**

- A** Isabel George.
- B** Isabel Williams.
- C** Isabel James.



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### CHALLENGE YOURSELF FOR CANINE PARTNERS

Assistance dog charity Canine Partners has places available for a number of challenges this year: Brighton Marathon, Reading Half Marathon, Tough Mudder, Ride London, Forth Road Bridge Abseil, and Para Tri.

The charity is looking for people of all abilities who are willing to take on a challenge in 2016 in aid of its work, training dogs to help with everyday tasks that disabled people find difficult.

Holly Bryan, events and challenge coordinator, said: "By supporting Canine Partners you will be joining our amazing 'purple army' team which is helping us to change people's lives for the better."



Get active for charity.

### DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR CHIP

Jerry Green Dog Rescue is giving owners a final push to remember to get their pets microchipped before next month.

From April, new legislation in England means that all dogs aged eight weeks and over must be microchipped and registered on an authorised microchip database.

"We welcome the introduction of the new law on microchipping," said Jacqui Bell, chief executive officer at Jerry Green Dog Rescue.

"Not only will it help reunite lost dogs and owners, it will also provide an element of closure for owners whose dogs have been fatally injured."

● Turn to page 27 for our feature about microchipping.

### AWARD FOR POLICE DOG

A police dog has received a posthumous devotion award for helping locate an elderly woman who went missing.

German Shepherd Ty successfully found the missing person in West Yorkshire, after being called to a care home where an elderly resident had disappeared in the night after taking sleeping tablets. Ty picked up a trail nearby and led his handler to some gardens where he began to bark.

His handler heard a soft cry for help and spotted the woman on the ground hidden by bushes. The award was given by PDSA.



Award-winning Killer.

## Rhino-saving dog wins top honour

A dog who risked his life to save the African rhino from extinction has been awarded the PDSA Gold Medal.

Killer, a Belgian Malinois, has acute tracking skills which have led to the arrests of 77 poachers over the past four years. This makes him the most successful dog working with Kruger National Park's Special Operations Team.

The five-year-old dog and his handler, Amos Mzimba, are flown in by helicopter to track and apprehend armed poachers when they are sighted, or a dead rhino discovered.

They can be deployed inside the park several times a day, and Killer's

tracking and early detection of suspects is paramount to keeping Amos and the rest of the team safe from harm.

Killer was presented with the award — the animals' George Cross — by comedian Ricky Gervais.

PDSA director general, Jan McLoughlin, said: "The PDSA Gold Medal recognises extraordinary acts of courage and dedication in life-threatening situations, and Killer is indeed a worthy recipient. His contribution to saving the rhino population has been truly remarkable. His track record is astounding and we are honoured to recognise his fantastic work in this way."

## Give a dog a coat



Homeless dogs have benefited from donated coats.

A charity for homeless dogs has received dozens of coats and treats following a UK-wide campaign.

More than 200 coats have been donated to the animal charity 'Give a dog a home', which will be distributing them to homeless canines across the UK to help keep them warm.

The campaign was organised by Pets Corner which asked its customers and animal lovers to donate pre-owned, new, and home-made dog coats throughout November and December. The retailer matched each donation with a tasty dog treat for the charity.

Lara Evans, founder of 'Give a dog a home', said: "We have been overwhelmed by the response.

"The coats will make a huge difference to the lives and well-being of homeless dogs during the colder months."





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# Making sense of the senses



## ABOUT CAROL

Carol Price is a canine behaviourist, trainer, and writer, specialising in the genetic, psychological and emotional motivations of dogs. She is also a leading expert in the Border Collie breed and author of the international best-seller, 'Collie Psychology: Inside the Border Collie mind'.

A massive part of the dog's brain is taken up with processing scent information.

Humans and dogs see life very differently, due to major differences in their senses, as trainer and behaviourist **Carol Price** explains.

**I**magine that our dogs perceive the surrounding world exactly as we do is one of the biggest obstacles to understanding them better. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Not only are dogs' essential drives and instincts (as canids) very different to our own (as primates), but their senses work very differently, too. And, as much of the way an animal behaves is governed by how his senses feed information to his brain, this is a critical reality for any owner to bear in mind.

It is only, in fact, the superbly evolved ability of dogs to read and react to human body language so well that fools us into thinking that they are more or less always on the same mental wavelength as we are. But really this is just an illusion that can also act against dogs, making us judge them as if they were human, not animals whose minds and senses work very differently to our own. Let's take a closer look at these senses.



## VISION

How many times have owners thought their dogs were dumb, for not being able to find something like a red ball in green grass, which seems so incredibly obvious to us? This is because while we have trichromatic vision, incorporating shades of red, dogs have dichromatic vision and cannot see shades of red or distinguish between red and green.

Dogs have superior eyesight to humans in dimmer light conditions, which is thought to be a throwback to the time when they were predators who hunted mainly at dusk and dawn. They additionally have far more movement-sensitive vision compared to humans, especially in reduced light.

In order to see better in dimmer light, dogs have bigger pupils, but this means a loss in their ability to judge more detail at a distance and depth of field, for example the true depth of a car or of water when they are getting into it. This in turn explains the anxiety some dogs may display when being introduced to such things.

They may also have greater trouble judging visual height contrasts, like the full length of a flight of stairs they are descending, or how much height — and thus the length of fall — from a higher point to the ground below. This is why dogs can often go over cliff edges, in the belief that the ground below is nearer than it really is.

### MORE NEAR-SIGHTED

Dogs are also generally more near-sighted than we are, which explains why they may get spooked by approaching things they cannot adequately distinguish until they are much closer to them. It also explains why it may take them longer than humans to visually recognise an approaching person or dog they know.

Over the course of many years working with aggressive dogs, I've realised that poorer distance eyesight can be an aggravating factor in many of their problems. Frequently I have seen these

## TRUE COLOURS

These are the colours that humans can see:



These are the colours that dogs can see:



A greater awareness of dogs' colour vision — as well as other visual differences, listed in the main text — can be very important for owners to appreciate why our dogs cannot always see what we can see, or may see things that we cannot.



Dogs senses work very differently to our own.

dogs charging up aggressively to inert objects, like mounds of earth, or rubbish bags, in the belief that it is another dog. And it is not until they are almost right up to the object and/or they smell it, that they realise their mistake. Some dogs may even need to sniff another dog they already know well, really close up, before finally deciding whether it is friend or foe.

### INTERPRETING VISUAL INFORMATION

Compared to dogs, far more of the human brain is taken up with interpreting and processing the visual information we take in with our eyes, allowing us to make more complex or rational assessments about our environment. Dogs, instead, will mentally absorb a constant series of 'pictures' about their environment, much like the shutter mechanism on a camera. They will then react to these pictures based on things like instinct or memory and how they reacted to the same pictures in the past. A massive part of the dog's brain is taken up with processing scent information, whereas visual information takes a higher priority in our own brains.

### THE BLIND SPOT

Another visual difference to bear in mind in dogs is the blind spot they have when it comes to objects that are fairly close and directly in front of their heads. This blind spot is caused by the fact that, compared to us, their eyes are positioned further apart, and slightly more to the side of their heads, and also by their wider and longer muzzles/noses.

When your dog is drinking or eating from a bowl, for instance, he is actually using his nose, lips, and

whiskers, more than his eyes, to locate the water or food, because his muzzle is blocking out a clearer visual view of these things. Similarly, when your dog takes food or treats directly from your hands he is using his muzzle and lips to locate it, because when the treat is positioned right under his nose he cannot see it.

### THE RIGHT APPROACH

If your dog fails to give you things he is holding in his mouth on command, it could be that your 'taking hand' is positioned right in his blind spot, and he cannot see it. It is always best to approach your dog's head from a more sideways angle instead, while at the same time delivering a verbal command such as 'Give', which alerts him to the fact that you are about to remove something from his mouth.

If you play tug games with your dog, remember that unless you keep your hands well in his vision line, on either side of his head, it is more likely he will bite them by accident when they are in his blind spot.

Lastly, many dogs become head shy of people approaching to stroke their heads, simply because the people's hands come into their blind spot, and unnerve them. With dogs like these, always ask people to approach them very slowly from a sideways angle, and to stroke their chests instead.

Dogs have a blind spot when it comes to objects that are fairly close and directly in front of them; bear this in mind when approaching or petting them.



## HEARING

Studies have shown that dogs, in common with other animals, have far more powerful hearing than humans. What a human can hear at 20 feet, a dog can hear at around 80 feet. In other words, his hearing is four times more powerful than our own.

Louder noises cause greater levels of vibration in the ear membranes and receptors of dogs, compared to our own ears, and this is why they can actually cause them physical pain. So, when a dog becomes more phobic about a certain noise, it is not just because of the stranger or more unsettling nature of the noise, it can also be down to the level of physical pain it is causing him.

Once you understand this, noise phobias in dogs become much easier to understand, and similarly the dog's desire to try to keep avoiding, or hiding from, the source of his 'brain pain'.

Dogs also hear sound at much higher frequencies than we do, and detect changes in environmental sound levels more constantly, as opposed to more periodically, as we do. This additional inability to screen out background noises can make them more vulnerable to different forms of noise stress.

**"What a human can hear at 20 feet, a dog can hear at around 80 feet. In other words, his hearing is four times more powerful than our own."**

## DON'T SHOUT!

Given how sensitive a dog's hearing can be compared to our own, it is incredible how much time some owners spend shouting at their dogs, in the belief that this will make them more co-operative, as opposed to more stressed! When dogs get stressed they are even less able to concentrate, or follow a command, and thus shouting is entirely counter-productive.

Instead get into the habit of always approaching your dog with a calm, kind, and far quieter voice; it may surprise you how much more readily he listens to you.

A dog's sense of hearing is far superior to that of humans.



## TOUCH

As primates we are extremely touchy-feely animals. We like to do things like stroke, hug, cuddle, kiss, and shake or hold hands. It is such a natural part of our daily human behaviour that it can be easy to assume that our dogs will enjoy it as much as we do.

But dogs are different, and while many may enjoy closer contact, bonding experiences — like play-fighting, or snuggling up — with other dogs or people they know well, others may not. Some may even feel threatened by any physical approach, from another dog or a person, which may constitute restraint or a loss of control. Dogs like these can become uneasy, or even panicky, when you try to pick them up, cuddle them, or even try to groom them.

### PAWS AND WHISKERS

Some parts of a dog's body are far more sensitive to touch than others. These include the paws and whole head area. Dogs have a particularly rich supply of nerve endings between the pads of their feet, which is why so many of them hate having their feet touched or picked up, or their nails clipped. There are also a particularly high supply of sensory nerves around the dog's nose, muzzle, and whiskers, to the extent that the face takes up 40 per cent of the area of the dog's brain that registers touch information. A dog's whiskers or vibrissae, as they are more scientifically termed, are also extremely sensitive. They are not, in fact, like any other hairs on the canine face or body but more like antennae, and possess their own specific touch receptors. Moreover each whisker, and the sensory information it records, can be mapped back to a specific area of the dog's brain, illustrating the true

sensitivity and importance of these hairs when it comes to the dog's perception of his environment.

This may help explain why dogs do not like their mouths being opened, and why this procedure, along with grooming, cutting nails, and cleaning teeth, has to be approached with gentleness, patience, and persistence.

**"Some parts of a dog's body are far more sensitive to touch than others. These include the paws and whole head area."**

Although some dogs love a cuddle, others find physical contact threatening.

### SENSORY CONFLICT

One of the common sources of frustration for owners is a dog who appears deaf to their commands, especially when they are out on a walk. Often, lack of training apart, this may simply be due to sensory conflict, or one sense — such as smell or scent — taking priority in his mind over hearing.

Senses in animals — including us — can often share limited brain capacity, meaning that in situations where different senses are being challenged at once, one will take priority over another. In humans, sight will often take priority over hearing, which is why when we are concentrating hard on a book, say, or TV programme, or visual information on a mobile phone or

similar computer device, we may not be able to hear, or take in, what other people are saying to us.

In dogs, smells may render them deaf to our commands because the scent sense is taking priority in their brains over hearing. The same apparent deafness may arise when dogs spot something worrying approaching, or are locked in an encounter with a strange dog. Here vision will take priority over hearing, as they will need to be on guard for any movement that could suggest a threat. So often, when you consider that your dog is being disobedient, he is really just mentally otherwise engaged, and thus less able to respond to you.

### A DIFFERENT WORLD

I hope this feature has helped owners appreciate the very different kind of world our dogs inhabit, due to the different quality of information that is entering their brains via their senses. Taking this reality on board not only gives us a better insight into why they may behave or react as they do to different things, but also reveals what it is about our world, or the way we handle dogs, that could make them more stressed or fearful.

## NEXT MONTH:

The 'master sense' in dogs — smell, or scent — plus do dogs have a sixth sense?





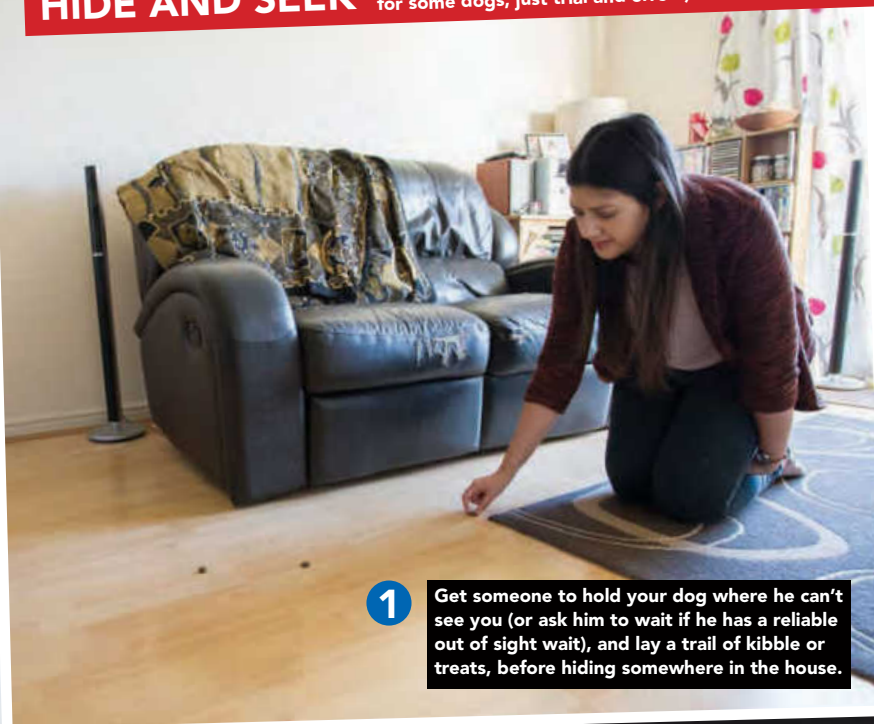


ABOUT CAROLYN

Carolyn Menteith DipCABT, KCAI is a dog trainer, writer, and broadcaster. She is passionate about bringing the principles of reward-based training into the public eye.

## HIDE AND SEEK

This is a combination of scent work and basic problem solving (and for some dogs, just trial and error!) but it is a fun starting point.



1

Get someone to hold your dog where he can't see you (or ask him to wait if he has a reliable out of sight wait), and lay a trail of kibble or treats, before hiding somewhere in the house.

# The nose knows!

Some simple scenting games can be the key to a more fulfilled and relaxed dog during the coldest, bleakest months of the year. **Carolyn Menteith** advises.

**L**ast month we looked at things you can do with your dog if you don't want to venture out on walks.

This might be because of the cold, the flooding, fears of the dreaded Alabama rot (see page six for more on this story) or for some other reason, such as your dog recovering from an operation, or because he is reactive or stressed around other dogs.

This issue we are continuing this theme, but focusing on possibly the most under-appreciated of the dog's senses — his incredible sense of smell.

Because we don't see the world in smell-o-vision like our dogs do, we don't understand how important the sense of smell is to them (more on the dog's senses on page 14 this issue), and for that reason we miss an entire means

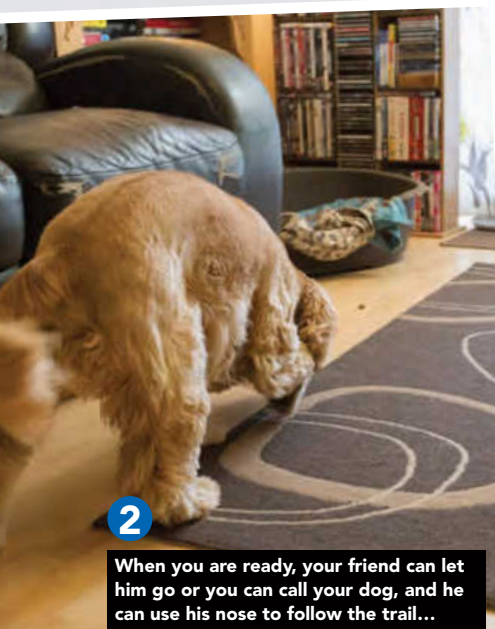
of interacting with and stimulating them.

It is thought that the part of the dog's brain that analyses smells is 40 times larger than ours — and if you compare our measly five million scent receptors to a Bloodhound's 300 million, you can see that our noses are pretty pathetic in comparison!

Scent is incredibly important to dogs, and it tells them far more about their environment than we can imagine. If we can incorporate this into some of our games and training, we can discover a whole new way to interact with our dogs.

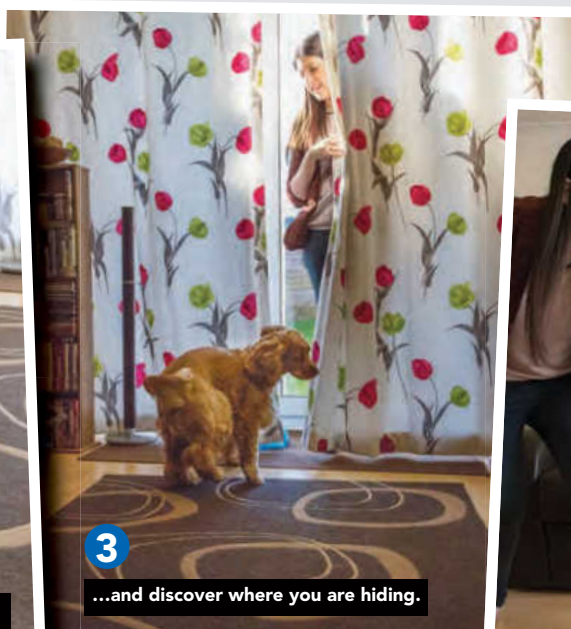
Many scent work exercises are best practised outside but some can be played indoors or in the garden, and they can lay the groundwork for much more when you are ready to venture back out again.





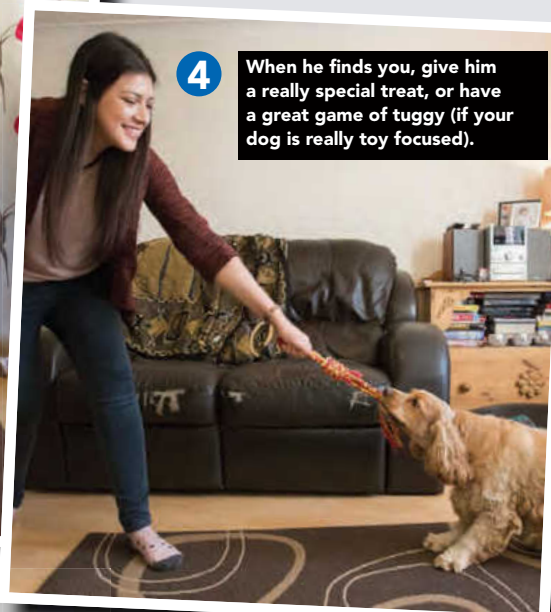
2

When you are ready, your friend can let him go or you can call your dog, and he can use his nose to follow the trail...



3

...and discover where you are hiding.



4

When he finds you, give him a really special treat, or have a great game of tug (if your dog is really toy focused).

## VARIATIONS ON A THEME

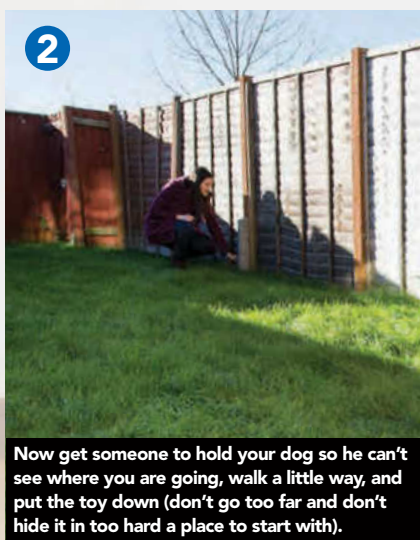
1

There are loads of variations of this, which you can play outside in the garden and further afield when you are able (and the ground is dry). One of them is to take your dog's favourite toy, or a special treat like a stuffed Kong, and get him really excited about it.



To start with, while the toy is close by, your dog may be using more than just his nose to find it, but as you begin to make it harder and go a little further, you will see him following your scent with his nose, which is always awe-inspiring to watch and great fun to do! As the dog is following the scent you have made by walking on the ground, you have to do this in a completely new area each time so you don't confuse your dog's nose. This is a great exercise to do on walks if your dog is good off lead; if not, you can use a long line.

2



Now get someone to hold your dog so he can't see where you are going, walk a little way, and put the toy down (don't go too far and don't hide it in too hard a place to start with).

3



Retrace your exact steps back to your dog (so there is only one scent trail).

4



Then release him and encourage him to find the toy.



**"It is amazing the number of things you can find lying around the house that you can turn into a smelly dog toy."**



## FIND THE TREATS

This is another easy game where you hide treats around a room for the dog to hunt out with his nose.

**1**

Start with obviously placed ones, but then you can begin to hide them under a newspaper or a plastic plant pot, in a cardboard toilet roll or kitchen roll, or under a towel. Get creative but don't hide them on sofas unless you want your dog tunnelling around in your furniture; for this reason it is a game best kept at ground level for chewy dogs or house-proud owners!



**2**

You can also leave a trail of treats leading to a fabulous jackpot treat like a stuffed Kong, which can be hidden somewhere more challenging such as in a handle-less bucket.

Just always make sure everything you do is safe, and that you supervise the game. You can also offer encouragement to your dog, to make it a game you do together.

You can also do this in the garden, and if you are really lazy, you can just scatter a handful of kibble in the grass and leave your dog to sniff it out.

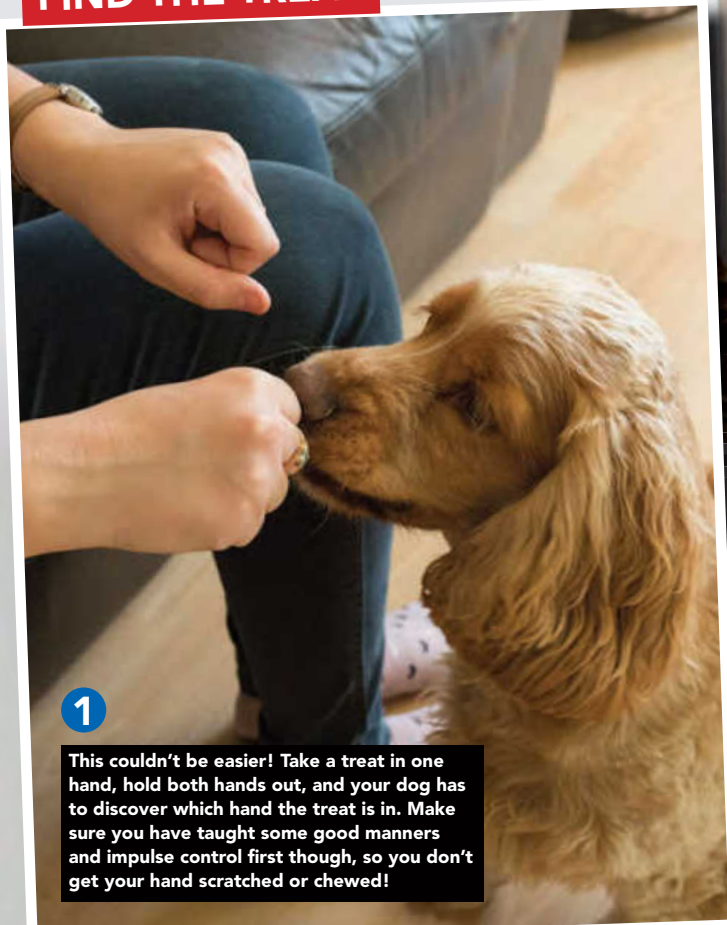


**3**

It is amazing the number of things you can find lying around the house that you can turn into a smelly dog toy. For some dogs — often terrier types — it is as much fun ripping open the cardboard tubes, wrapping paper, or lightweight boxes to get the treats as it is to sniff them out, so always be on the lookout for things that you can use to stimulate your dog and make an interactive dog toy.



## FIND THE TREAT



1

This couldn't be easier! Take a treat in one hand, hold both hands out, and your dog has to discover which hand the treat is in. Make sure you have taught some good manners and impulse control first though, so you don't get your hand scratched or chewed!

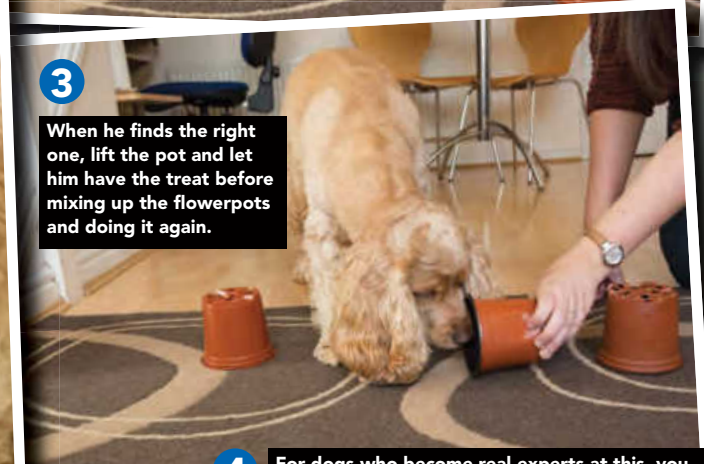
2

You can also use three or four plastic flowerpots and put a treat under one so your dog has to sniff it out.



3

When he finds the right one, lift the pot and let him have the treat before mixing up the flowerpots and doing it again.



4

For dogs who become real experts at this, you can progress to using cardboard or small plastic boxes with lids that can be pushed off easily — just watch out for sharp edges!

If your dog is a ball-o-holic, you can swap the treat for his favourite ball or any other toy he really loves.

## FIND THE SOCK

This is a more advanced scent work exercise — but some dogs can be surprisingly good at it!



1

Use a sock that you have been wearing for a while so it really smells of you. Play some games with your dog and the sock — throwing it and getting him to bring it back for a good reward (a treat and/or a game). Make this exciting so he gets really enthusiastic about his sock.



2

Get a pile of clothes or small towels (old, but clean ones!) and while you are playing retrieve games with the sock, throw it on to the clothes pile. Reward your dog when he brings it back. Then you can begin to hide it.

3

After a few repetitions (and maybe a few sessions), you can put the sock into the pile, but still make it really obvious. Encourage your dog to find it and bring it back and reward him when he does. Eventually you can hide the sock in the pile and he will sniff it out.

Once you have started working with your dog on these simple scent games, you start to appreciate your dog's nose. For some, these games give you a whole new way to interact with your pet, often without leaving the front room!

When you do get out into the great outdoors though, remember just how incredible a dog's nose is and what an important function it plays in his understanding of the world. Let him spend time sniffing, even if you don't understand it yourself!

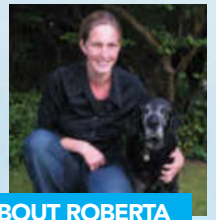
## NEXT MONTH

Stimulate your dog with retrieve games — we show you how.



# The trouble with travel...

The world has opened up for dogs and their owners, but increased travel has its downside, as **Roberta Baxter** explains.



## ABOUT ROBERTA

Roberta Baxter MA Vet MB MRCVS qualified from Cambridge University Veterinary School in 1993. She works for Aquarius Veterinary Centre in Mildenhall, Suffolk, and also has a pain referral clinic for animals: [www.paintherapy4animals.co.uk](http://www.paintherapy4animals.co.uk)

It is great when the weather improves and we can all get out and about with our pets, but it is worth considering the infections our dogs can pick up, both in this country and abroad.

What scares me is how much things have changed in the 22 years since I became a vet. The introduction of the Pet Travel Scheme in 2000 had a number of unintended consequences, including allowing a range of different diseases to be seen in the UK that had previously only been seen abroad.

In addition, whether or not you believe in global warming, the fact is that species of mosquito and tick, previously unknown in the UK, are now surviving in this country and they can transmit a variety of infections. Before long it is likely that this will result in exotic diseases being seen in UK dogs who have not even been abroad.

Since I qualified there are a whole new range of diseases I need to be aware of, to warn owners about when they travel abroad with their dogs, and to consider whenever a poorly dog comes into the practice.

**The well-travelled pet is at risk from exotic diseases.**

## Ticks spell trouble

One insect-carried condition that has been around for years is Lyme disease, for which I tested a lovely Labrador recently. It is a tick-borne infection; many dogs develop an immunity to it with no signs of disease, but in some dogs and people it can cause lethargy, weakness, and joint pain, and can go on for months or years.

The young Lab I saw had multiple swollen joints and was very miserable,

with blood tests indicating high levels of inflammation in his system. His owner had removed several ticks recently and though she had seen no reddening or swelling around any of them (signs which can indicate infections) a tick-borne infection is a possible cause of his symptoms. In the meantime, I have started him on an appropriate medication that can kill borrelia (the infection responsible for Lyme disease).

**A fully fed tick.**





## Back from abroad

Later I saw an old dog who had recently returned to this country after living in the south of Spain for some years.

She was lethargic and miserable too, and had swollen joints and lymph nodes, and crusty painful-looking lesions on her skin. My immediate thought was that she might have come into contact with leishmania, which is responsible for a chronic, debilitating disease carried by sandflies that can cause multiple

problems in dogs and be difficult to treat.

We did tests for this, as well as a range of other conditions that can cause a wide variety of symptoms; we await the results. If they come back as positive, there are treatment protocols that can be used, with variable results. Theoretically, the condition can be a risk to any in-contact humans, particularly if they are immune suppressed.

Check your dog regularly for ticks.



## Travel history

Exotic diseases picked up abroad are rare, but some months ago I was asked to look at a collapsed, lethargic dog recently returned from France. He had anaemia, and a swollen liver and spleen, all of which could be associated with a tick-borne rickettsial disease, which we were able to identify. Treatment was initiated promptly, and thankfully the dog recovered and survived. When visiting the vet with a poorly dog, be sure to mention if there is any history of overseas travel as this information may be helpful.

## And finally...

In summary, keep all pets up to date with regular worming treatments at least every three months (monthly is advisable for those dogs who eat slugs and snails, and for families with young children). Worming treatments can be used even more frequently to treat confirmed disease or if angiostrongylosis is suspected.

Keep all pets up to date with flea treatments year-round; don't assume the fleas will all die in winter as most homes are warm enough for them to survive. Also, use tick repellents or mosquito/

sandfly repellents when travelling abroad, depending on where you are going. Take time to research the risks in the areas you are visiting and discuss matters with your vet.

The Pet Travel Scheme is a product of EU border harmonisation, and the regulations are only in place to reduce the risk of bringing rabies and human tapeworms into the UK. The regulations do not prevent dogs from being exposed to risky diseases abroad. Take a look at [www.esccap.org](http://www.esccap.org) where you can find up to date and individual information for each area.

However, the bottom line is that dogs heading for warmer climes need extra tick protection, and in particular, those dogs visiting the Mediterranean basin may be exposed to leishmania and need sandfly and mosquito protection. This can be achieved with anti-parasite treatments; vaccinations against leishmania are now available too. Do get any poorly pets — particularly those who have travelled abroad — checked out promptly; any of these exotic diseases can be very serious, particularly in our UK dogs, who have no natural immunity.



Snails carry the lungworm larvae, so don't let your dog play with them.

## Tricky to treat

There is a range of other tick-borne diseases that can cause similar signs and be difficult to treat, particularly if they aren't identified quickly. Most are rare, but are likely to become more common in time as foreign travel becomes more widespread and the climate in the UK changes.

Dirofilaria, the heartworm, is another parasite dogs can pick up abroad that is not normally seen in the UK (though vector mosquitoes have been found living in the UK so this too may only be a matter of time).

Worms grow in the heart and major blood vessels of affected dogs, cause coughing and haemorrhage, and can be fatal. Regular worming treatments can prevent this.

A similar disease that is more commonly transmitted in the UK is angiostrongylus, the European heart/lungworm. This may well become more common, although the only case I recall involved a young Mastiff who ate snails and became infected. When she came into the surgery, she was weak, lethargic, and anaemic, and blood tests confirmed lungworm. Luckily she responded well to treatment and survived.



For more advice on dog health, check out 'Dog Answers Extra' on page 56 this issue.



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**7**  
to give away

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The PitPat is a new gadget that attaches to a dog's collar and monitors his activity. Using an app on an Apple or Android phone you can connect to the device and get a breakdown of your pet's walking, running, playing, and resting activity — and how this compares to the guidelines based on his breed and weight. The device is waterproof and has a year-long battery life. We have seven to give away.

For your chance to win, please state 'PitPat' on your entry. For more information visit [www.pitpatpet.com](http://www.pitpatpet.com) or meet the PitPat team at Crufts; visit hall 1, stand 146.

**15**  
to give away



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## ID TAGS

K9 offers a range of nickel-plated, durable identity tags presented in a smart gift box. We have 24 engraved tags to give away, in the Union Jack, Grr, or Dude designs (pictured).

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**24**  
to give away



**15**  
to give away

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## PACKS OF DENTAL CHEWS

VeggieDent Chews help to keep your dog's teeth and gums healthy. The 100 per cent vegetable chews are highly palatable and their design helps to prevent the formation of dental plaque and tartar. The packs come in four sizes: extra small (for dogs up to 5kg), small (5 – 10kg), medium (10 – 20kg), and large (dogs over 20kg). We have 30 packs to give away.

For your chance to win, please state 'VeggieDent' on your entry, along with the preferred pack size. For more information visit [www.virbac.co.uk/home/products/dental.html](http://www.virbac.co.uk/home/products/dental.html) or call 01395 243243.



**30**  
to give away

## HOW TO ENTER FREEBIES

Simply visit [www.yourdog.co.uk/freebies](http://www.yourdog.co.uk/freebies), quote the code **XAAH3296** and follow the instructions on screen.

Alternatively, send your details, on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope, to: **Your Dog**

Magazine, 1-6 Buckminster Yard, Main Street, Buckminster, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG33 5SB, including the name of the giveaway you'd like to win.

If you'd like to enter more than one giveaway, please include separate entries for each item inside an envelope.

The closing date for online entries is March 1, 2016, and for postal entries March 15, 2016

(UK only). The winners will be picked after the postal closing date. BPG Media and the companies offering these giveaways may use your details to let you know about other products and services that might be of interest to you. If you do not wish to receive this information, please write 'no' in the top-left corner of your card when you enter or tick the appropriate boxes on your online entry.



THE LAW  
IS CHANGING

# STAY TOGETHER FOREVER GET CHIPPED BY 6 APRIL

Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 & SC037843



**Make sure your dog has an up-to-date  
chip before the law changes.**

By law, from 6 April your dog needs to be microchipped – and your most current contact details have to be linked to that chip. At Dogs Trust, we know that a microchip is the best way to be reunited with your dog if you become separated – that's why we've already chipped nearly a million dogs.

**For more information on the law change, free chipping and how  
to update your details, go to [dogstrust.org.uk/microchipping](https://dogstrust.org.uk/microchipping)**



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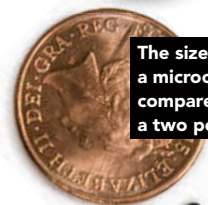




The microchipping procedure is quick and simple.

# Chips with everything!

Microchipping your dog becomes mandatory next month, so don't fall foul of the new rules. **Michael Hallam** helps you stay on the right side of the law.



The size of a microchip compared to a two pence coin.

## **Q** When does microchipping become compulsory?

**A** As of April 6, 2016, it becomes a legal requirement for dogs in England, Scotland, and Wales to be microchipped. All dogs over the age of eight weeks must have a microchip. The keepers of a dog must ensure his details are up to date on the microchip database, otherwise the chip does not comply with the law.

## **Q** Are there any exceptions?

**A** Your dog may be exempt from the rule if a vet certifies that he should not be microchipped for health reasons. The vet will have to state when the exemption runs out and your dog must then be microchipped.

In England or Wales, if a vet certifies a dog as a working dog and docks his

tail then the age by which he must be microchipped is extended to 12 weeks. The dog can go to his new keepers once he has got his microchip. This doesn't apply in Scotland where tail docking is banned even for working dogs.

## **Q** Why is it a legal requirement for a dog to be microchipped?

**A** The Government has made microchips mandatory because they believe chips make it more likely that a lost or stolen dog will be reunited with his owners. The move is supported by many leading dog charities which hope that it will help reduce the number of stray dogs and the burden on animal shelters and local authorities.

It is also thought that microchipping will help to promote responsible pet ownership and clamp down on puppy

farms, as breeders will be more traceable. A breeder must microchip a puppy and register as the first keeper before the details are changed once a pup goes to his new home.

## **Q** What will happen if I don't microchip my dog?

**A** If your dog does not have a microchip and this is picked up by the authorities, you may be given a notice that your dog must be chipped within 21 days. If you fail to do this, you may be fined up to £500.

If you move house or change your contact number and you don't update the details, your dog is no longer considered to be microchipped. You can be served with a notice and you could face a fine of up to £500 if you don't comply.

Pics: Graham Warren.



# The microchipping process

**Q**Where is the microchip implanted?

**A**The microchip is usually inserted in the loose skin on your dog's neck, in between the shoulder blades. The chip is around one centimetre long and is implanted using a specially designed device.

**Q**How do I get my dog microchipped?

**A**Your vet should be able to microchip your dog. There may be a charge, usually between £10 – £30. Many charities and rehoming centres such as Wood Green, The Animals Charity, and Dogs Trust are also offering to microchip pets for free.

**Q**How does a microchip work?

**A**Each microchip has a unique 15-digit number that can be read by scanners used by vets, dog wardens, and local authorities. Once the chip is implanted you need to register it with a microchipping database. The implanter of the chip, such as your vet, may register the chip for you, but it is still worth checking up with the database company to ensure this has been done. If you get a dog after the law comes into force the breeder or previous owner should have already had the dog microchipped. You will need to contact the database to update the details.

If your dog is lost, then the person scanning the microchip can check the database to get your contact details and reunite you with your pet. It is vital to keep your details up to date — if you don't then the microchip could be useless.

**Q**Will it hurt my dog?

**A**Dogs are not given anaesthetic when they are microchipped. They may be uncomfortable and even squeal as the chip is inserted but the procedure is said to be no more painful than a routine vaccination.

**Q**What is the microchip database?

**A**In fact there are several databases, including Pet Protect, PETtrac, Anibase, and Petlog, which is run by the Kennel Club. A database company is responsible for storing your details and must comply with government regulations. They offer the same service but differ slightly in the way it is provided. The database you need to register with will depend on the microchip that has been inserted into your dog.

There are many different manufacturers of microchips and each is associated with a database company. A microchip scanner will be able to read your dog's microchip no matter which database stores his details.

## Getting your dog microchipped

Having a chip fitted is a routine procedure. We take you through it in four easy steps.



**1** While in the waiting room help your dog to relax and give him some treats. It's a good idea to do this on any trips to the vet's to build positive associations with going to the surgery.



**2** You will need to hold your dog while the chip is implanted. The professional implanter, usually your vet or a vet nurse, will explain how best to position your pet.



**3** The microchip is then inserted in the back of the neck, between the shoulder blades.



**4** Reward and praise your dog while the chip is scanned to check it is working. Remember to register the chip with the database company and always keep the details up to date.

## Microchip FAQs

**Can a microchip affect my dog's health?**

Microchips are safe but there can be occasional problems. Chips can sometimes pop out before the skin has healed over or a dog may suffer from swelling, inflammation, or infection around the injection site.

**Are some dogs too small to be microchipped?**

If you have concerns about your dog's size discuss it with your vet. There are mini microchips available. Most dogs are fine to have the standard size chip.

**Can microchips move around the body?**

This is rare because of the way they are inserted. Vets are obliged to report faulty microchips, including if they move from where they were implanted.

**Does it cost money to change my details?**

There are charges for changing your details or transferring the ownership of a dog, but it is important to always keep your details up to date, otherwise if your dog goes missing you may not get him back even if his chip is scanned. Some companies offer premium or upgraded membership which means that the owner pays a one-off fee and can then make unlimited changes for the lifetime of the pet. This usually costs less than £20.

**Should I tell my microchip company if my dog is lost?**

If the worst happens and your dog goes missing, report it to your microchip database. They will be able to register the pet as lost on their system. Some companies will also alert animal professionals local to you that your pet is missing.





More than 60,000 dogs were reported missing between 2004 – 2015.

Seventy one per cent of vets said the most common reason they could not reunite a dog with his owners was because there was nothing with which to identify the dog.

Over 50 per cent of strays cannot be returned because their owners cannot be identified.

Scanners will read chips that are registered with different databases.

Six thousand dogs are euthanised each year because their owners cannot be found.

Get your dog microchipped before the law comes into force.



## COMPULSORY SCANNING

While all dogs must be microchipped, there is no legal requirement for vets and local authorities to scan dogs they come into contact with. A campaign was launched to try to make the scanning of microchips compulsory. Fronted by Bruce Forsyth, the Vets Gets Scanning appeal launched a petition to try to change the law.

However, vet Vicky Payne, from East Sussex, explained that introducing compulsory microchip scanning was not straightforward. She said: "I have concerns about how compulsory scanning would be implemented and policed, and that people would put too much hope in it as a way of finding their missing dogs.

"Most vets already scan new dogs which come to their practices, and at the annual health checks. However scanning is not enough by itself as most scanners just give the chip number (only the Halo scanner indicates lost or stolen pets). At the moment practices check the registration details of dogs when they are concerned about the ownership, so any law would need to make scanning and checking the database a legal requirement.

"Requiring professionals to check the details of every dog they scan would present logistical difficulties as checking several databases is time consuming, and would add to practice costs. A more streamlined checking system would be essential for compulsory scanning to be effective, but even then I fear many dogs would remain lost.

"The sad truth is that most stolen

dogs never reach a vet. It is hard for conscientious dog owners to understand that many people don't visit vets for routine check-ups. My hope is that compulsory chipping will work to reduce dog theft as buyers will ask to see chip paperwork when buying dogs which will make it harder to move on stolen pets.

"I'm not against compulsory scanning being law, but I don't think it will help and I think it's taking attention away from the compulsory chipping."

Twenty two per cent of dogs in Wales are not microchipped — this equates to over 110,000 dogs.

Twenty three per cent of vets said the most common reason they could not reunite a dog with his owners was because of incorrect information on the microchip database.

Approximately 80 per cent of the 8.5 million dogs in the UK are already microchipped and registered on a database.



The implanting device.



## COLLAR AND TAG

While compulsory microchipping will help reunite lost dogs and owners, this has not replaced the law regarding collars and tags. It is still a legal requirement for your dog to wear a collar and some form of identity tag when out in public. This can be just as useful in tracking down the owners of stray dogs. By law the tag must include your name and address (the postcode and house number is sufficient). It is also a good idea to include your phone number so you can be contacted more quickly. It is generally not recommended that you put your dog's name on the tag, to prevent potential thieves from using his name.

Checking for a microchip.







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Quick & simple  
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**Registration**  
Register your details  
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**Lost**  
Notify all local vet  
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**Rescued**  
Professionals\* scan  
rescued animals  
to find their unique  
microchip numbers



**Identified**  
The Petlog database  
will match your pet's  
unique microchip number  
to your details



**Reunited**  
Petlog will contact  
you to arrange for  
your pet's safe return



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## ONE IN A MILLION!



Email your letters to [s.wright@bpgmedia.co.uk](mailto:s.wright@bpgmedia.co.uk). Alternatively write to: Sarah Wright, Letters, Your Dog Magazine, 1-6 Buckminster Yard, Main Street, Buckminster, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG33 5SB. Please include your full name, home address, and daytime telephone number with your correspondence otherwise, regretfully, any prizes cannot be forwarded. The editor reserves the right to abridge and edit letters submitted. You can also pass your comments and views to Sarah through Twitter (@yourdog) or Facebook ([www.facebook.com/yourdogamagazine](http://www.facebook.com/yourdogamagazine)).



**The wonderful Tilly  
with Monique.**

Tilly has been my best friend since I brought her home in 2007. She was a sick eight-week-old puppy with diarrhoea and a fever. For the first few weeks she was very ill and needed a trip to the vet's. At about six months old I noticed she would become lame after exercise and was very sore; X-rays showed that she had hip dysplasia.

Hydrotherapy and joint supplements meant she could enjoy an active and happy life for many years, and she loved to train and run in fun agility competitions, but could never compete.

When I became unable to walk due to joint issues myself, I trained Tilly to be my assistance dog. She picked things up for me, opened and closed doors, and helped me with other tasks. She just loved her work and did everything that was asked of her so enthusiastically.

When I was able to walk properly again we enjoyed training sessions, competitions, and many long hikes. Then, one day in 2015, Tilly went for her weekly run on the beach and went severely lame. X-rays showed she had ruptured her cruciate ligament; she needed an urgent £3,000 operation. However we were told she could no longer enjoy long walks and had to stop the agility training she loved so much.

Once the operation was complete, we started the long, hard process of rehabilitation. After a few months she started to recover and to the

vets' amazement she seemed fitter than ever.

Tragically in August 2015, I noticed a lump on her front left wrist. MRI scans showed it was a bone tumour. I was devastated. My poor girl had been through so much and she didn't deserve this, and because of her joint issues, the normal course of action (amputation), was not a possibility.

Tilly is still with us, however we don't know how long for. She is on strong painkillers and struggles to walk now, but she is stubborn and will still greet me at the door when I come home, and she still has a wagging tail. I have now got over the shock and am learning to cherish every minute with her.

I will never have another dog like my Tilly Bear. She is one in a million and she always will be.

**Monique Rafique-King,**  
email address.



Our 'Star Letter' correspondent this issue receives a six-month subscription to *Your Dog Magazine*.

About 18 months ago, I wrote to the magazine because I was grief stricken over the loss of my dog. Your vet kindly sent me a wonderful email that eased my pain. I lost both my spaniels within three months of each other, but it was my spaniel Jessie who died in tragic circumstances. There is not a day goes by when I don't shed a tear for them. But I thought you would like to know what has happened since.

In my grief I volunteered



**Volunteering for a charity helps maintain a contact with dogs.**

at Battersea Dogs and Cats Home in Windsor and was put on the waiting list. Somehow I must have mentioned that I'd

had a Cavalier. When I was out one day, they called the landline and spoke to my father to say that they had a one-year-old Cavalier who had just been brought in and wondered if I would like to see her.

I was adamant that I didn't want another dog and was not happy about the situation, but my father agreed to see her and I went with him.

Lola (the name she was given) completely blanked us and clung on to her handler, making no attempt to come over or be welcoming.

In a way, I was pleased because I was looking for an excuse, but I could see that my father was taken by her.

I went to bed that night trying to forget her, but all night long I could hear Lola saying to me: 'Oi, come and get me!' I had such a restless night that I got up at 6am and made my way to the centre.

Lola had been dumped by her owners when they had a child; they suggested that she was aggressive towards the baby. However, she is a sweetheart and although she has her issues,



we like them. She has already been on two holidays and stayed in hotels with us. I will give her the love that her other owners were unable, or unwilling, to give her, but I will never forget my other angels. **Sadie Fisher, Surrey.**



From our January issue.

## AN INSPIRING BOND

I really enjoyed reading Isabel George's recent series about dogs who served during the First and Second World Wars.

The stories in the series were perfect examples of the incredible bond between man and his best friend — something which never ceases to amaze me.

The active role dogs played in the war efforts cannot be underestimated; they must have saved countless lives. What struck me even more, though, was the impact a dog could have on the morale of soldiers. For the men on the front line life would have been very scary, not knowing whether today was going to be your last day on Earth. The fact that the presence of a canine companion could lift spirits, even in such bleak circumstances, is proof of the amazing power of dogs.

Sergeant Stubby — the most decorated dog in history — was my favourite dog

featured in the series. Of all the stories, the way he would sit with wounded soldiers in no-man's-land and often be their dying comfort was the most moving. It was great to read he enjoyed life after the war and entertained people — he certainly looked a real character.

Thank you for such a brilliant and interesting series. **Jonathan Morgan,** email address.

## MIND YOUR MANNERS

I am getting increasingly frustrated at the number of owners who allow their pets to run up to other dogs when off the lead.

My four-year-old spaniel is friendly towards most dogs — particularly those he knows — but he can be nervous around strange dogs who are very bouncy.

I've lost count of the number of times we have been enjoying a walk on our local riverside footpaths before encountering an off-lead dog with no manners.

If it's a dog we've never met, I make a point of standing to one side to let owner and dog pass. On some occasions, however, the dog decides to make a beeline straight towards my spaniel, who freezes and lies on the ground anxiously.

'Oh, don't worry, he's really friendly,' the owners will often shout, a fair distance away from their excitable pet. If the dog approaches my spaniel right up to his face, ▶



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he sometimes growls to warn the other dog he is not comfortable with the situation. I'm then often met with a scowl from the dog's owner, who points out that my dog 'is not very friendly, is he?'

If my dog is on a lead it makes it worse, as he is restrained and cannot get away.

It's not the dogs' fault but the irresponsible owners; they should have enough common courtesy to put their pet on a lead, as not all dogs are good around other animals.

**Louise Jackson, Shropshire.**

### BOXING CLEVER

My sister was browsing the internet recently and happened to come across a shoebox appeal for animals. A number of rescue centres and kennels were requesting various items for animals in their care, such as treats, toys, collars, and leads. I thought this was a good idea and subsequently sent two filled shoeboxes off to two different locations: Three Counties Dog Rescue and the Santa Paws Shoebox Appeal at Sedgemoor District Council.

I wondered if this was something you could bring to people's attention for later this year. I think it is a good cause that would appeal to many

readers. It is a good way for rescue centres to get extra help at Christmas and a nice opportunity for animal lovers.

**Miss J. Warton, West Midlands.**

### WHAT A RELIEF!

While reading Dog Answers Extra (January 2016 issue), I was very interested in Hannah Nichols' question asking how she could help relieve her dog's constant itch.

I own a Labrador, Rottweiler, Akita-cross, with severe skin problems. She used to have a mass of scabs and spots on her chest, stomach, and in her groin area, as well as irritation around her anal glands and toe nails. She had skin scrapes and blood tests, which revealed that she had atopic dermatitis and was allergic to cereal mites and pollen. She was put on steroids, and given Cortavance spray for the spots and Atopica tablets

and Piriton for the irritation.

The only way I could groom her was with a soft leather pad and wet wipes. I also had to Hoover daily, wash her bedding weekly, and put her bedding in the freezer every other day.

After watching her scratch and nibble her feet for five years, I discovered Ultimate Oil, which is also used to treat horses with sweet itch (a mite irritation which causes the horses to rub their manes and tails). I give her a teaspoonful twice daily, and after two years her skin and coat has improved considerably.

We have now been able to take her off the Atopica tablets and four months on I can groom her with a brush and she is a much happier dog.

About a year ago a new drug came out called Apoquel and four hours after giving it to my dog, it made the irritation so much more bearable for her. She began by having one tablet a day for two weeks, but now I only give them to her when she is particularly irritable. I also wash her with an anti-fungal shampoo called Malaseb.

She is so much better now, but I am always waiting for an outbreak, which I can ease but not cure.

**Janet Lucas, Surrey.**



The unmistakable smell of wet dog!

### WET DOG

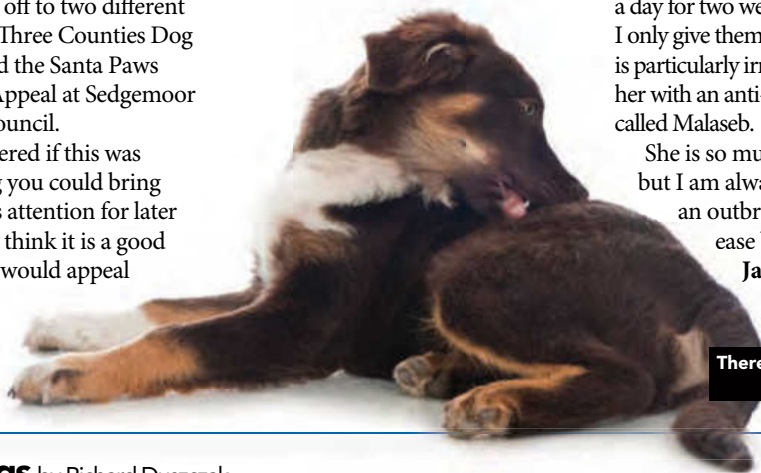
He walks in the room,  
Chest swelled with pride,  
And throws himself down,  
By the fireside.

The rain, it had stopped,  
For an hour or more,  
So out he had gone,  
The wet world to explore.

With dripping wet coat, paws,  
Ears and chin,  
There wasn't a puddle,  
He hadn't been in.

He came up to tell me,  
How he'd destroyed a puddle,  
But the last thing I wanted,  
Was a stinking wet cuddle.

And as the room fills,  
With an earthy damp scent,  
Faint snoring is heard,  
From my dog, so content.  
**John Lindley, Nottingham.**



There is relief available for itchy dogs.

### Scraggs by Richard Duszczak





Most misunderstood

## TERRIERS

The breed is known for being good with children.

THE

# PEOPLE'S FRIEND

He wants nothing more than to be your best friend — but is often misunderstood. We shine the spotlight on the — **Staffordshire Bull Terrier.**

## FACT FILE

Height

36 – 41cm  
(14 – 16in) at  
the withers.

Weight

Dogs: 13 – 17kg (28 – 38lb).  
Bitches: 11 – 15.4kg (24.25 – 34lb).

**Average lifespan:**  
12 years.

**Average price:**  
£500 – £700.

**Temperament:**  
Loyal, loving, and full of fun.

**Grooming requirements:**  
Minimal; a brush with a hand glove once a week is the most a Stafford needs.

**Exercise requirements:**  
Staffords are adaptable and will take as little or as much as you can give them. They can make good running partners but will be equally happy to curl up with you on a rainy day.

**Do they moult?**  
Yes, but their short coats mean this is not excessive.



**O**ur breed series continues with another popular terrier. This month, we profile the SBT, a popular family pet to thousands of owners. We delve into the stereotypes and uncover a dog who has much love to give.

## HISTORY OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier has his origins in the baiting dogs of the 17th century. It is thought that the Stafford derived from crossing a Bulldog of the time with the now extinct English White Terrier.

Although these dogs needed to be ruthless in the pits where they fought, they were good companions. They lived with their families and needed to be happy about being handled or treated for injuries by their owners. Fighting dogs who were aggressive towards owners wouldn't be tolerated.

Once blood sports were outlawed, the breed was preserved by a group of enthusiasts from the Staffordshire area and introduced to the show ring. It was named the Staffordshire Bull Terrier and officially recognised by the Kennel Club in 1935.

The Stafford retains his courageous spirit, rugged looks, and adoring nature towards humans. The SBT is a hugely popular family pet and is regularly in, or near, the top 10 in the KC's top 20 breeds (based on registration statistics).

## A MISUNDERSTOOD BREED

Despite their popularity as pets, Staffords have suffered from a negative image.

Historically, they have been associated with the Pit Bull — which is a banned breed under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 — due to their similar appearance, and the breed has also been adopted by some irresponsible owners, who use Staffords as an intimidating status symbol or, worse, as a weapon.

This is in stark contrast to the Staffords that conscientious breeders work tirelessly to promote. "In terms of temperament they should be absolutely bomb-proof with people," explained Lesley McFadyen, secretary of the East Anglian Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club.

The message responsible breeders try to get across is that Staffordshire Bull Terriers can often be trained to ignore other dogs but don't necessarily want to socialise. "The fact they are bomb-proof with humans, doesn't always extend to other dogs," said Lesley. "They need to be brought up correctly and socialised, but even with all that they are not always brilliant with other dogs."

Unfortunately, the negative stereotyping of the breed can be difficult to overcome. "There is a standard picture of a red Staffordshire Bull Terrier which the media use when there is a dog attack," said Lesley.



The Stafford's distinctive head.

"The picture is years old and the picture is, in fact, of a Stafford sneezing. No matter how many times the owners explain that, or get up in arms, once it is used the damage is done.

"The public's perception is getting better. After we do displays with the East Anglian Staffordshire Bull Terrier display team we get people coming up to us to say 'they are not as bad as they say they are'. I find the dog-loving public do see it as an irresponsible owner problem, it's just other people will not look beyond anything they read.

"Staffords do make excellent family dogs but if someone is looking for one then they need to make sure it is right for their family. It's a case of education, education, education."



Let's go! Staffords will take as much as exercise as you can give them.

### Health:

Generally healthy, Staffords can be prone to skin problems and some eye conditions. The eye conditions can be avoided by buying health tested puppies (see page 38).

### Trainability:

Staffords are bright and love mental stimulation. As they love humans, they just want to please and pick things up quickly.

### Dog activities:

They will give anything their best shot and can show real talent in some sports.

### Good with children?

The breed is well known for getting on with children, but as with all dogs, interactions should be supervised.

### Type of house needed?

Staffords adapt and could easily live in a flat.

### Good with other pets?

They can get on with other pets if raised to, but no Stafford should be left unsupervised with another animal.

### Can they be left alone?

They crave human company but if taught from a puppy can cope with being alone for three to four hours.

### Good with other dogs?

Not always. If brought up correctly they may get on with other dogs. However, some Staffords will never enjoy the company of other dogs and may just need to be taught to be tolerant while keeping their distance.



## STAFFORD HEALTH TESTS

Staffords are generally healthy but are known to be susceptible to some health problems for which there are health tests.

● **L-2-hydroxyglutaric aciduria** — this is a metabolic disorder; symptoms include behavioural changes, dementia, exercise intolerance, seizures, anxiety attacks, stiffness, tremors, and being unsteady.

● **Hereditary cataracts (HC-HSF4)** — cataracts are where the lens of the eye becomes opaque and impairs vision.

● **Persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous (PHPV)** — this is a developmental abnormality of the eye which leads to deposits on the lens. This can cause visual impairment ranging from mild problems to blindness.

● **Posterior polar subcapsular cataract (PPSC)** — a small, incomplete type of cataract where the cloudiness does not affect all of the lens.

Responsible breeders will only breed from healthy, tested stock. For more information about the tests visit [www.eastangliansbtclub.co.uk/page20.html](http://www.eastangliansbtclub.co.uk/page20.html)



Staffords are full of fun.

## 'STAFFIES. THEY'RE SOFTER THAN YOU THINK'

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home runs the 'Staffies. They're softer than you think' campaign to try to change the perception of the breed. Rescue centres in the UK have received huge numbers of Staffords. In 2014, over a quarter of all the dogs Battersea took in were Staffords or Stafford-crosses.

"We still need to stand up for Staffords and encourage more people to rescue them," said Ali Taylor, head of canine behaviour and training advisors. "All they need is to be given that all-important second chance to prove what lovely dogs they are."

There are many different accepted coat colours, including red.



## OTHER BREEDS YOU MAY LIKE

If you're interested in the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, then you might also like to consider...

### Miniature Bull Terrier

A strongly built, muscular dog who is courageous, spirited, and has a fun-loving attitude.



### Wire Fox Terrier

An active and alert terrier who is noted for his ability to get on with children.



### Boxer

Smooth-coated and muscular, the Boxer is fearless, lively, and loyal to his family.



### Boston Terrier

Descending from Bull breeds, the Boston is rising in popularity thanks to his dapper appearance and good nature.





# BUSTING THE MYTHS

## 1 Staffords cannot be trusted around humans — false

They adore people. The breed standard preamble states: "With the human race, however, he is kindness itself."

## 2 Their jaws can lock — false

While Staffords have a powerful bite their jaws are not able to lock. "They have a strong jaw and can be very stubborn and determined," said Lesley. "So it can be a real tug of war if they are hanging on to a toy or ragger. However, it's a physical impossibility for their jaws to lock."

## 3 Blue is a rare and valuable coat colour — false

The colour is not rare and owners should not pay a premium for a blue Stafford. "Blue Staffords account for 65 per cent of the registered breed so they are not rare," explained Lesley. "Blue is a genetic dilute of brindle and if they keep being

bred we will lose the other colours. I don't know of any reputable breeder who deliberately breeds blue dogs."

## 4 Their heads crack — false

Some people think that a Stafford's head shape is due to the skull cracking. "They have a well-muscled head shape which develops as they grow," commented Lesley. "It can have a sort of cleft appearance but it's not because their skulls crack, as if they did they wouldn't survive."

## 5 They were bred to look after children — false

The breed is famous for its 'nanny dog' image but this doesn't mean they were bred to look after children. "They are one of only two breeds which are noted as being good with children in their breed standard. However, they weren't bred in the Victorian days to look after children while the parents were out at work."



Staffords excel in many dog activities.

## CASE STUDY

### A passion for Staffords

Jo-Ann Essex featured in our recent puppy series where we followed the early life of her litter of Staffords. Currently, she owns six Staffords: Sumi-e, Bacon, Mouse, Queenie, Peppa, and Tyger — one of the pups we followed in the series — as well as Poppi, a Stafford X Lurcher. For Jo-Ann, the love affair with Staffords began over 20 years ago.

"I'm a dog groomer and where I worked a gentleman used to bring in his Staffordshire Bull Terrier and Rottweiler every few weeks for a bath," said Jo-Ann, from Flitwick, Bedfordshire. "His Stafford was the only dog that I ever had who hated having a bath but licked you all the way through. I fell in love with her and was hooked."

"My dogs regularly compete in agility. They also do lots of trick training, film work, and displays with our Staffordshire Bull Terrier display team."

"Bacon was in the Channel 4 series 'Top Boy' and my dogs have been in films and lots of adverts. I got into it after I taught the first Stafford I bred to skateboard and he was spotted."

"They love the attention when they are on set. I've had to teach the dogs lots of new things. In one film, Sumi-e had to be driven on the back of a moped while sitting in a pizza box. We had the bike at home for a few months so we could build up the skills. Other times I've had to quickly teach the dogs something on set in five minutes."

"The display team is full of dogs from KC-registered breeders, show dogs, rescue dogs, and dogs who have not been bought from the right people but are OK now — it's a real mish-mash. The team is really positive and the displays



Tyger and Jersey (left) as puppies.

give us chance to show off how great Staffords are."

The three pups who featured in our series are also well. "Tyger is doing brilliantly and is a natural at agility. Norman couldn't have gone to a better owner. He and Callum adore each other. Jersey went to my best friend and often appears with Avril's daughter in displays with the team."

### FIND OUT MORE

Before deciding whether the Staffordshire Bull Terrier is for you, research the breed further. Speak to owners, contact the breed club, and definitely meet some Staffordshire Bull Terriers in the flesh. Visit the East Anglian Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club website ([www.eastangliansbtclub.co.uk](http://www.eastangliansbtclub.co.uk)) or call the secretary on 01205 871762.

### COMING UP...

Next month we take a look at one of the rarest dogs in the group — the Dandie Dinmont Terrier.



Jo-Ann has been breeding Staffords for 17 years.

## STAR ATTRACTIONS

Colour Sergeant Watchman IV was the canine mascot for the army's Staffordshire Regiment. When the loyal Stafford died in 2013, he was buried with full military honours.

Lawyer Nick Freeman, better known as Mr Loophole, who has represented many celebrities, is a lover of Staffordshire Bull Terriers. He set up the campaign 'Save the Staffy' to promote the breed.

Presenter of 'The Crocodile Hunter', Steve Irwin was a fan of Staffordshire Bull Terriers. He described his dog Sui, who appeared in the show, as the love of his life, although he had doubts that she was a pure-bred Stafford.

'For the Love of Dogs' presenter, Paul O'Grady, was made a patron of a Staffordshire Bull Terrier club and has worked to help promote the breed.





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# It takes two!

## PART 2

Good posture can help make you a better handler, and ensure both you and your dog enjoy more relaxed lead work.

**Sarah Fisher** advises.



### ABOUT SARAH

Sarah Fisher is a Tellington TTouch Instructor and works with a variety of animals, including horses and dogs. She trained in the USA with Linda Tellington-Jones and Robyn Hood and runs the UK TTouch Centre from her farm near Bath. Sarah teaches clinics and workshops for members of the public, trainers, behaviourists, and rehoming centre staff, and incorporates TTouch exercises with techniques learned from horse trainers, to improve the posture of the care-givers and refine their lead handling skills. These techniques have become an important part of Tellington TTouch and many other trainers are successfully using them in their own teaching systems.



Tension in shoulders

Arm and hand raised

Tight lead

FROM THIS...

Dog pulling



**G**ood balance is crucial for fluid movement, and this applies to handlers as well as to dogs.

A healthy posture ensures that the correct muscle groups are engaged and working as nature intended, and reduces the risk of injury

due to uneven wear and tear on important anatomical structures.

The majority of dogs put most of their weight on the left fore leg and have restricted movement through the right hind limb. This trait is exacerbated (and

perhaps created) by our own posture and the way we handle the lead.

Standing and walking behind the vertical — in other words leaning backwards — is a common postural human habit, which results in a weak core and in restricted movement through our shoulders, pelvis, and back.

For every action there is an opposite reaction and as we tip backwards, our arm often rises which creates tension on the lead and triggers the opposition reflex (pulling) in the dog.

Learning to engage the core muscles will help protect your back, reduce

fatigue, and make physical tasks more effortless. As you begin to enjoy greater freedom of movement through your own body, you will be able to liberate your dog from his less efficient postural habits too.

You can help your dog to walk in balance by your side by making small changes to the way you stand, walk, hold, and handle the lead. This can reduce tension through your own body and therefore on the lead. Engaging core muscles by walking in balance helps you to be proactive and become a part of the solution instead of inadvertently reinforcing a problem. ▶

## ...TO THIS



## EXERCISE 1

### TAKE THE LEAD

This exercise involves holding the lead palm up, which gives you greater freedom of movement through your arms and shoulders, reduces tension on the lead, and enables you to be more subtle with any signals on the line.



**1** Enlist the help of a friend and get them to take one end of the lead, while you take the other. Now experiment by using your free hand to hold the lead in the traditional way, with your knuckles up. Even though you are not actually pulling on the lead, your assistant may well feel tension on the line.



**2** Now try changing your hand position so that you are supporting the lead with your palm uppermost and your thumb on top. The lead should now feel lighter and both you and your assistant will notice less tension in your arms and shoulders as well as on the lead.



**3** Gently squeeze your hand around the lead and then slowly release the pressure. Ask your assistant if they can feel a gentle 'ask and release' sensation on the lead rather than a sharp check or pull.



**4** Now, still holding the lead, stand parallel to your friend so that they are in the same position as your dog would be. Ask them to note if you are standing straight or leaning slightly backwards.



**5** If you are tipping backwards, try to 'float' your upper body slightly forwards so that your shoulders are in line over your hip bones. Imagine that you are leaning slightly into a head wind. Ask your friend if this changes the sensation on the lead. Ideally they should feel less bracing in their own body, and the lead will be lighter in their hand as well as yours. Note whether the change in your own posture helps you to lower your hands.



**6** Now practise walking with your friend; remember to 'float' forwards as you move but avoid tipping too far. Focus on keeping your hands in front of you to override the natural temptation to pull back on the lead.



## EXERCISE 2

### STROKE THE LEAD

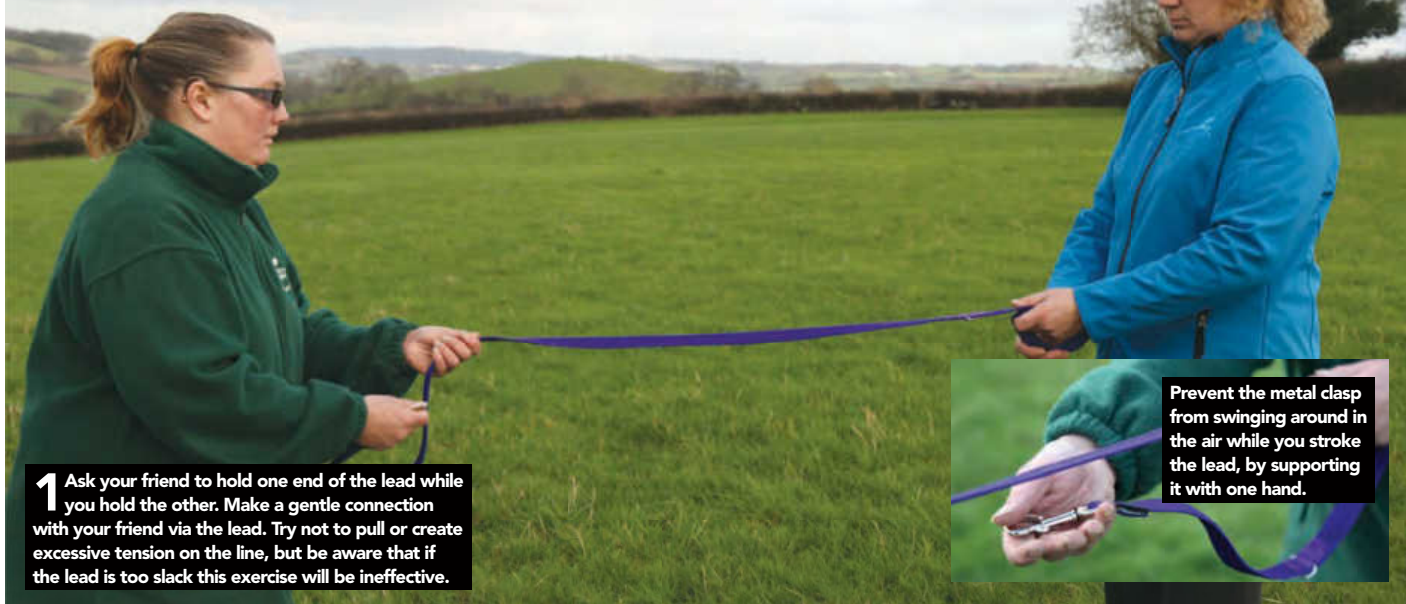
This exercise helps to reduce tension through your upper body. The gentle vibration on the lead invites the dog to slow down, turn, or move forwards, and encourages him to focus on what you are asking him to do. It reduces bracing through the dog's neck and back and encourages him to

settle and move in better balance.

Dogs learn by watching body posture, so while it's helpful to check in with your dog and acknowledge any eye contact with you, consistently looking down at him can inadvertently encourage him to lean away from you, or block his movement. Instead look in the direction in which you want to go. This changes the angle of your

hips, shoulders, and feet enabling you to give clearer visual cues to your pet.

Remember to reward any behaviour you would like the dog to repeat with verbal praise or treats.





# Finding the one

When it comes to picking a puppy, it pays to be well prepared. Trainer and behaviourist **Jackie Drakeford** has some advice.

**C**hoosing a puppy from a litter is rather like speed-dating — how can you pick the right one in such a short time?

Dog enthusiasts tend to already know about the importance of seeing the litter with their mother, and about making sure that she really is the mother. They know to walk away from a litter that smells bad, or has puppies with runny noses, eyes, or bottoms, or scaredy-pups who clearly haven't been handled much.

They know they should be suspicious of the breeder who comes to the door carrying

one or two puppies and won't let them see the litter, only has 'the last puppy', or offers them a deal on taking two puppies.

They expect the breeder to quiz them on their lifestyle, to supply a diet sheet, and possibly some food to cover the first few days, a worming schedule, and, where applicable, registration papers. They know to ask for a receipt and bill of sale, to see the results of any health-testing, and to supply their own contact details. But what else would be helpful?

## ABOUT JACKIE

Dog behaviourist Jackie Drakeford is a Kennel Club accredited instructor with almost 50 years' experience working with dogs. While a Lurcher and sighthound specialist, she loves all types of dog, and currently owns three Lurchers and a terrier. Jackie has written two books on general dog care.



Most pups will run up to see you on arrival but wait and see which one stays with you.



You can learn a lot about the puppies' personalities by observing the litter interacting.



## PHYSICAL CHECKS

Most important is to research the breed or breed mix beforehand for any undesirable physical traits that may appear. For instance, some breeds commonly have eyes that deviate to either side and show too much white (strabismus) while others have eyelids that turn in (entropion) or droop to an unhealthy

extent. If you really want that breed you may find you have to compromise, but with cross-breeds, mongrels, and pure breeds that normally have correct eyes, you should choose a puppy whose eyes are satisfactory. Gently move a finger across the puppy's line of vision and see that it follows with its eyes, and blinks when the finger comes close to either one. Some breeds, and some colours

Research your breed thoroughly.



within those breeds, carry inherited deafness, and the breeder should have already had any suspects tested, but you can perform a simple test by making a little squeak or kissing noise with your lips while the puppies are otherwise occupied, and noting which ones respond.

## LEVEL BITE

From eyes and hearing, go to the jaw. Slightly overshot often

corrects itself when the second teeth come through; slightly undershot does not, nor does a wry (twisted) jaw. If the breed normally has an undershot jaw, then you might have to live with it, but otherwise go for (preferably) a scissor bite, or a level bite. Don't worry if puppy teeth are missing the odd tip, because puppies work their milk teeth hard, but if teeth are misaligned and the breed should have normal dentition, buy a different pup.

## COUNTING TOES

Nature can make mistakes, and so you need to check all paws for the correct number of toes. Some breeds have webbed or part-webbed toes, but otherwise digits should be clearly separated. All dogs have front dew claws, which correspond to our thumb and are attached just below the wrist. With a few working breeds it is traditional to remove these; if so, check that ►

## TEMPERAMENT MATTERS

Temperament is every bit as important as physical health, and it is normal to find a variety of temperaments in one litter. Be aware that the most extrovert pup in a gentle breed is still likely to be less pushy and excitable than the shyest pup of a more ebullient type. Cross-breeds may take their character from any of their pedigree ancestors, so are less predictable, but each pup still foretells its nature as an adult dog. You need to be happy to live with that temperament, which means being honest about your own. Does one pup constantly bounce all over its littermates no matter how they object? You will need to train self-control, and actively supervise

its behaviour with other dogs. Is one sitting quietly away from the others, observing everything that goes on? That one is the 'thinker', and will ask deep questions of its owner. Has one scuttled away and hidden itself, to peep out shyly? This one needs a calm owner who is prepared to build its confidence gently. All of these will make great pals for the right owner, who likes and can manage that particular mindset. For instance, if you want a bold pup, don't choose a sensitive one, because character is innate and cannot be changed, or concentrate on the middling types of pup, which are not at either end of the confidence spectrum and will fit in with any but the most demanding household.





Dog enthusiasts are aware of the need to check the paperwork.



Finding the right pup requires good observation skills.

the area has healed properly. Some breeds have hind dew claws, or extra ones (double dews). Hind dews can be floppy and take injury easily, and may need to be removed. If not, you could have a potential vet's bill at a later date.

## FULL TACKLE

Don't be shy about inspecting puppy genitalia, because this is important. Check that the anus does not protrude. Puppies should be clearly male or female; hermaphrodites do occur, albeit rarely, and will need surgery later.

Testes in males may or may not have dropped, and some are quite late with this process, but there should always be a clearly defined scrotum. Do not confuse this with the perfectly normal swelling that appears at the base of a male pup's penis when he is excited. Make sure

his urethral opening is in the right place.

Some female pups may have a clear discharge called puppy vaginitis, which is harmless although care must be taken that the area does not get infected. I have owned several pups with this, and it has always cleared up naturally with the first season. While checking underneath, also look for hernias, which can be where the tummy button would be on us (umbilical), in the groin (inguinal), in the forward belly (diaphragmatic), under the tail (perineal), and, rarely, hiatal (chest area). Most will need surgery, and the tendency, if not from injury, is believed to be genetic, except for umbilical, which could simply be the result of a clumsy separation of the umbilical cord at birth. See that the tail is free from kinks (unless a breed trait), strong, and waggy.

## DWARFISM IN DOGS

Some popular breeds suffer from dwarfism, which results in a normal-sized adult with abnormally short legs. This can be difficult to spot in the very young pup, but if any puppies seem to have significantly shorter legs than the others, bear it in mind, and take time to research the parents' pedigrees to see if this genetic deformity appears anywhere. With cross-breeds, leg length may take after any of the breeds involved, although if there is dwarfism in more than one of the contributing breeds it will be just as big a risk as it is with the pure-bred dog.



## Puppy checklist

### Research

- Breed/breed mix characteristics.
- Breed health considerations.
- Parents.
- Grooming requirements.

### Puppy personalities

- Extrovert.
- Shy.
- Clever.
- Sensitive.
- Happy medium.

### From the breeder

- Diet sheet.
- Worming schedule.
- Health checks.
- Microchip registration (legal requirement from April 2016).

- Pedigree papers.
- Vaccination details (if any).
- Receipt/bill of sale.
- Post-purchase back-up.

### For the breeder

- Your lifestyle.
- Family considerations.
- Garden security.
- Other pets.
- Contact details.

### Physical checks

- Toes.
- Tail.
- Lumps.
- Naughty bits.
- Eyes.
- Hearing.
- Mouth.





her pups separately, do not mistake this for a temperament flaw in the dam. Many bitches, however, are very happy to be present while visitors meet their puppies. It is a hormonal matter, and outside human control.

### HAPPY FAMILIES?

Observe the mother dog. She should still show signs of lactating, although by the time the puppies are ready to change homes, she will not be spending much time with them. If she gets a bit grumpy when they try to suckle, this is normal, because sharp nails and milk teeth hurt her, and also because Nature decrees the pups should be discouraged from feeding from her once they are eating solid food.

Some bitches are more maternally protective than others, so if the breeder does not allow the bitch to be with her pups while you look at them, but gives you plenty of time with the bitch and

### PARENT TRAP

Observe how the bitch walks if she is of a breed that has a tendency to hip and elbow problems, and see that her gait is true unless her breed has bent wrists, exceptionally short legs, or turned out feet, as a normal physical characteristic.

If she is out of coat, or sparse in her coat, this is usually hormonal, so nothing to worry about.

Few breeders keep both parents, but you should be able to see some photos of the pups' father, and learn a bit about why the breeder chose to use him.

## Puppy interaction

Years ago, scientists created a series of mildly antagonistic personality tests to be performed on puppies, and tried to categorise them temperamentally by their reactions. Please do not try these. Not only are they very much a part of outdated theories, but there is a risk of harming the puppies emotionally if visitor after visitor attempts to manhandle them. No sensible breeder would allow their precious puppies to be stressed in this way. Simply watching puppies interacting is the easiest way of telling their characters, and does no harm. Good breeders will have been doing this since the puppies were born, and will have a good idea which would suit you and your lifestyle best, if you are still undecided.

Be upfront with any concerns you might have, and do not take suggestions as personal criticisms. If your breeder tells you that a three-foot fence is not high enough to keep your dog secure, then you really do need a higher fence, preferably with an overhang. And, equally, your breeder should respect your own wishes. If, for instance, you really don't like one particular pup, don't take it even though the breeder thinks it will fit your lifestyle best.

Should you find you have made a mistake in getting a puppy at this particular time of your life, ask the breeder if they will take the puppy back rather than just passing it on. Most breeders would far rather have their puppy returned, and many can help you with training issues you thought were insurmountable — puppies can be overwhelming at times — so you can stay together after all.

People used to be advised to take the first puppy that came to them, but all this

means is you take the boldest and most curious, which won't suit everybody. I have always preferred the last one to leave me instead. Normally a great cascade of puppies approaches the visitor, and after a few minutes of investigation, they go off and occupy themselves with puppy matters. Frequently one puppy is left, which often goes to sleep on your feet. If all else is equal, that is the one.

Puppy partnership can allow for gut feeling along with common sense — just like speed dating! Know the kind of home you can offer, what you don't want, what you can compromise on, what you cannot change. You are going to be together — hopefully — for a long time, so reconnaissance at the beginning is time well spent.



Check your potential pup's physical attributes as well as his personality traits.

# Dog Answers

## Training & Behaviour

## EXTRA

THE YOUR  
DOG EXPERTS



Claire Arrowsmith BSc, MSc, CCAB, is a member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors.



Steve Goward is deputy head of canine behaviour and training at Dogs Trust.



Tony Cruse is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers.

### GOT A PROBLEM? WE CAN SOLVE IT!

If you have a query about your dog, drop us a line and we'll get one of our resident experts to come up with some solutions. Email your problems, with a photo if it's relevant, to: [editorial@yourdog.co.uk](mailto:editorial@yourdog.co.uk)

Alternatively, post your letter, with an SAE, to: **Dog Answers Extra, Your Dog Magazine, 1-6 Buckminster Yard, Main Street, Buckminster, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG33 5SB.**

You can also post your question on Facebook [www.facebook.com/yourdogmagazine](http://www.facebook.com/yourdogmagazine) and on the Your Dog Forum [www.yourpetforums.co.uk](http://www.yourpetforums.co.uk)

#### BEHAVIOUR

## Looking for things to bark at!

**Q** We would love to take Riley, our much-loved Miniature Schnauzer, on holiday. We have tried everything to discourage his sometimes excessive barking when he sees a bicycle, vans, motorbikes, joggers, cats, or horses. He has been socialised with other dogs since he was a puppy and interacts well.

Riley is very intelligent and is always alert and curious when out on his walks, looking for things to bark at!

*Mrs S. Fretwell, Lancashire.*

**A** **Steve says:** Dogs who are vocal towards certain stimuli are often very excited, frustrated, or fearful of the object at which they are barking. Identifying the emotion behind the behaviour you are seeing is always important so you don't negatively impact on the dog's welfare. You must avoid enabling your dog to practise the unwanted behaviour. However this is only the beginning of a solution to his vocalisation and the next stage would be to desensitise and

counter-condition him around the stimuli that elicits the barking. This method has a proven track record if done correctly; it fails when the dog is over-exposed, or the exposure is too close, or in a situation that combines a number of stimuli. The key is to gradually reintroduce your dog in a controlled manner with an alternative behaviour already in place.

Often with vocal dogs I will teach them to pick up and hold a soft toy in their mouths as this helps with their frustration and provides a more appropriate outlet for their excitement or frustration.

The idea is that whenever your dog feels the need to vocalise you can ask him to: 'Get your toy' and engage in a game



Cats often elicit barking.



Miniature Schnauzers have a reputation for being quite vocal.

#### TOP TIP

When training your vocal dog to get his toy, don't wait until he starts barking before giving him his cue. Instead, get in first before he starts to vocalise, and you can reward his not barking with a game.

with him to reward his appropriate behaviour.

Each dog has a threshold beyond which they cannot cope and it is up to you to identify what your dog's critical distance is so you can gradually start

adding the stimuli that would previously elicit the barking.

Speeding this training up may require further assistance from a suitably qualified trainer/behaviourist to support you in the process.



Puppies love to explore new scents and tastes.



BEHAVIOUR

## Mucky habit

**Q** How can I stop my five-month-old Cocker Spaniel puppy from eating his poo on a daily basis? I have tried ignoring him, telling him 'No' in a firm voice, and distracting him with a treat, all to no avail.

Wendy Andrews, Dorset.

**A** **Claire says:** Coprophagia always evokes horror in owners. The truth is that most puppies will engage in the activity at some stage during the normal events of exploration and discovery. However, most grow out of it. In a few dogs there is a medical issue driving the desire, but for the majority they simply learn that this habit has some merit.

It sounds as though your puppy learned that eating poo was tasty and that it provoked a response from you.

This is still early days and with a good, strict routine you should be able to alter your pup's habits. Firstly all excursions into your garden need to be supervised until this has been resolved. He should be on a long line so that he can move about and find a location to toilet in, but you can maintain distance control over his movements. When he finishes pooing you should call him excitedly and gently guide him away from the waste. If you have taught a good recall response this will help and he should be given a very nice reward for coming away. Some owners have found that tossing treats down on the ground just as their dog finishes toileting is a better way of drawing them from the poo. They can eat the treat and then be guided inside.

You must go out and pick up the poo each time, preferably when your dog is not present since you do not want to draw attention to it and make him think it is a valuable resource that should be grabbed at every opportunity.

TRAINING

## She's afraid of everything!

**Q** I rescued a three-year-old German Shepherd Dog two months ago. I'm her third home and her last.

We don't know what happened to her. She had been kept outside or in a crate, but I bought her a crate and she wants nothing to do with it.

When she hears loud noises she runs for my bed; if I get the broom out she runs. Basically she's afraid of everything. I think it's going to take a very long time for her to feel safe. She sleeps with me. Is there anything I can do to help her? I love her so much. She sometimes has 'accidents' in the middle of the night. I never yell at her.

Stacie Blanner, on Facebook.

**A** **Claire says:** A life in such a restricted environment would have left this poor dog without the skills of 'normally' socialised dogs. She has no experience of what we would consider normal events and is therefore

trying to escape. The truth is that this is going to be a long and tricky road, but I can see that you are committed to this journey with her. This is such a complex situation that I would urge you to talk to your vet about having a behavioural referral where all the detail can be taken, the situations broken down into manageable aims, and possibly some behavioural medication considered to limit her anxiety responses.

A careful programme, where she is exposed to different scenarios in very controlled ways often enough, and those situations are linked with pleasure, will begin to teach your dog that it is safe to relax.

Be prepared that a plan like this is going to involve a lot of time and focus over the next couple of years and continued management after this is likely to be needed. It sounds as though she is very lucky to have escaped that life and to have found a home with you.

Some dogs find brooms scary.



Lack of experience can make a dog behave fearfully.

### TOP TIP

To find a good behaviourist, speak to your vet, or contact the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors, whose members abide by a strict code of conduct. Find out more at [www.apbc.org.uk](http://www.apbc.org.uk) or call 01269 831144.



Looking for kind, fair and effective dog training?

The APDT, UK will have a member who can help...

[www.apdt.co.uk](http://www.apdt.co.uk)



### TRAINING

## Where there's a wee...

**Q** We have a five-month-old Westie; she is good in all ways except when she wants to go to the toilet. We get up to take her out but she just stops and goes to toilet there and then. When she is playing with the two older dogs (also Westies) she seems to forget to go the toilet and comes in the house to wee. When she has been asleep we take her out but she still does not get that far and does her wee inside.

*Gill Rose, email address.*

**A** **Steve says:** With any house-training issues it is important to remain patient and calm. Resist the temptation to reprimand her as this will likely lead to anxiety and prolong the problem. First of all ensure there is no medical issue going on; a trip to the vet is essential. Once you have a clean bill of health, begin a toilet diary to identify the times and the places where she is having accidents. The diary may well show a pattern that helps you to identify when you need to take

her out before it gets to the point where she can't hold it any longer.

Remember to praise and reward her appropriate toileting and that means being with her when she is outside, whatever the weather. Take her out more often as smaller breeds, when young, may need to go more often. This way you are setting her up for success so she is likely to get more rewards for getting it right and therefore should learn faster.



Make sure you go outside with your dog, whatever the weather.

### BEHAVIOUR

## Nibbling habit

**Q** I have a German Shepherd and she nibbles and licks herself. I've tried everything to stop her. She has been treated for a skin condition and no longer has signs of this, but she's now in the habit of nibbling and licking all the time, so much so that she has made sore spots. We put a cone on her when we are out of the room or leave her, but she's managed to get at her back leg to lick it.

She is regularly exercised and played with, and has loads of toys.

*Leeann Bullock, on Facebook.*

**A** **Claire says:** Discuss the case again with your vet; skin conditions can be complex and your dog might still have some underlying itchiness.

Your vet may be able to suggest a trial of further medication, or a different treatment to assess the impact on her itchy skin.

Since this breed is known for having skin problems your vet might be happy to refer you for further examination, where they may explore other options such as diet, and environmental allergens.

Unless all this has been investigated, focusing on other remedies is not sensible. If all medical avenues have been ruled out then your vet will be able to refer you to a behaviourist who can come and work with you and your dog to see what motivates her, what the triggers appear to be, and which techniques could be used in this case.

Often methods need to be applied consistently and for a period of time. A behaviourist can help you to feel confident in the method you are using so that you persist until you see results.



Licking and nibbling may indicate an underlying allergy.

### BEHAVIOUR

## She humps my dog

**Q** My 11-year-old bitch has recently started humping my two-year-old dog. She's never displayed this behaviour before, so why has she started now? Both of the dogs are neutered; nothing in their environment has changed recently.

*Eris Lizzy, on Facebook.*

**A** **Claire says:** The sudden onset of mounting behaviour can indicate that the dog being mounted has an anal gland problem and therefore you should talk to your vet about this. The odour from bacterial imbalances in the anal glands

can mimic a bitch in heat and trigger off unexpected sexual interest from both sexes. It would be useful to also rule out any other medical problems that might trigger such urges in your bitch.

Other behavioural reasons for unexpected mounting can involve play, or a growing social tension between the dogs now your boy is mature. Consider your own responses too just in case they have been a factor. All this might give you some idea about her motivation, but first get your two-year-old checked out by the vet.

If you are concerned about your dog's behaviour it's worth checking with your vet that there is no physical cause.





TRAINING

# How can I stop two of my dogs barking and lunging at other dogs. I have four dogs and would love to be able to let them off the lead.

Michelle Rawsthorne, on Facebook.

Walking several dogs can be fun, but also challenging.



**A** **Steve says:** Having a group of dogs can be great fun but can also present owners with dilemmas such as this. To be able to train your dogs you will need to be able to focus on an individual and reward positive behaviour, and identify when their reactivity is likely. As with all undesirable behaviours it is vital

to understand the motivation for the behaviour so the appropriate training plan can be implemented.

My advice — not knowing the motivation and therefore the emotion behind your dog's behaviour — is to seek the assistance of a suitably qualified trainer/behaviourist to help you understand why your dogs are reacting

in this way. In my experience much of the on-lead reactivity we see in dogs is due to frustration or fear and it is vital to know what's driving your dog's behaviour.

Avoid using aversive techniques that may offer a quick fix but will only suppress the behaviour and not address the underlying emotion behind it.

**TRAINING**

## First dog, big challenge!

**Q** I have a Westie who is just over two years old. We have had Eddie since he was eight weeks and he is the first puppy we have tried to train. He has been a challenge from the beginning, and I have to admit to making mistakes along the way; everyone seems to have different ideas on the best way to train a dog.

My main problem is that when I leave the house and there is another dog in the area, he barks ferociously and pulls like mad to get to the dog.

This behaviour stops me letting him off the lead in case he bumps into

a dog he dislikes. Who knows what could happen?

*Liz McGuire, email address.*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

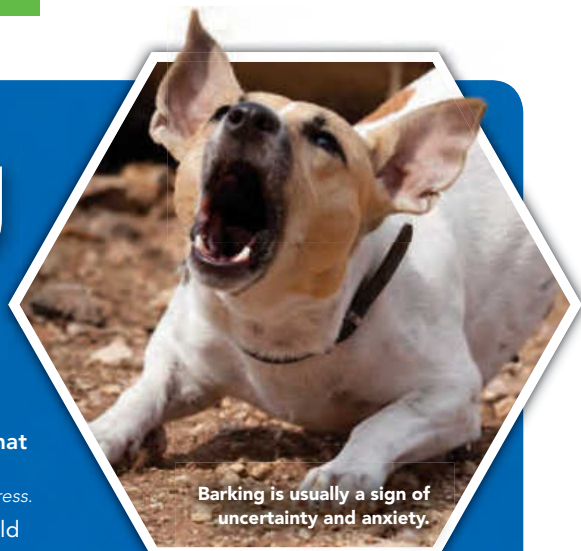
Tension on the lead can often add to your and your dog's anxiety and stress levels. Check out Sarah Fisher's article on page 42 this issue for advice on how you can improve your lead walking.

**A** **Tony says:** You should never punish a dog for barking because it will sound like you are joining in and he may start to believe that there must be an issue with other dogs.

Barking is usually a sign of uncertainty and anxiety, so you are then punishing a nervous dog. Soon

being near other dogs starts to be associated with bad things.

You can set up scenarios where he is at a comfortable distance



Barking is usually a sign of uncertainty and anxiety.

from other dogs and, as he spots them, great stuff occurs! He gets treats when other dogs are around and they become the tip-off that snacks appear. He will then start feeling better and also focusing on you because you provide the treats. When there aren't any dogs nearby, the party ends.

To find a professional to help you, take a look at the following organisations: the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) at [www.apdt.co.uk](http://www.apdt.co.uk) or The Institute of Modern Dog Trainers (IMDT) [www.imdt.uk.com](http://www.imdt.uk.com)

**BEHAVIOUR**

## Little dog, big problem!

**Q** My four-year-old Jack Russell X Chihuahua is aggressive towards other dogs, in particular bigger ones as he's been attacked by big dogs in the past. What can I do to sort this behaviour out? I've been taking him to obedience classes to help him socialise with other dogs but he nips and barks at them the whole time. Any help would be appreciated.

*Emma Brain, on Facebook.*

**A** **Tony says:** Dogs generally display aggressive behaviour for one reason — to put a safe distance between the 'scary' thing and themselves. Once you understand that the dog is anxious, and what triggers the reaction, you can start address it.

You can help your dog out by keeping a safe distance from other dogs and particularly larger ones. There will be a certain distance where he can see the other dog but will not be reacting as much. At this range, you can deliver some tasty chicken or have a game with him — good things happen when other dogs are in sight. When

the triggers have gone, the feeding or the game stops. Soon he will start pairing the two events and other dogs nearby predict happy times!

Consider if your dog is happy in class or is he anxious and upset? Obedience classes do not suit all dogs. Also, good socialisation means having favourable and pleasant experiences around

other dogs and people. A better option is to perhaps contact a professional for a one-to-one session. You can then work through your dog's anxiety about other dogs.

The Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC) has a list of professionals who can help you; visit [www.abtcouncil.org.uk](http://www.abtcouncil.org.uk)



Make sure your dog is happy in any dog training classes you attend.





#### BEHAVIOUR

## When attack's the best form of defence

**Q** My 10-year-old Whippet X Bedlington was a rescue and when we got her she was very friendly and loved other dogs. About a year later she was attacked by a Jack Russell who broke her leg. After that she would attack small dogs, then moved on to attacking any other dog she saw.

We've always just coped with it and kept her on the lead (she has never bitten another dog) but we have recently noticed that when I'm with the horses and she's standing outside in the yard off lead, if another dog walks past, she does not attack but runs away! Is she scared of other dogs?

*Gemma Petitt, on Facebook.*

Aggression is often a defensive reaction to drive other dogs away.

**A** **Claire says:** Your dog certainly has cause to feel afraid of other dogs since an unpleasant altercation resulted in such serious injury. Defensive reactions are very common, as the dog tries his best to make sure that repeated

attacks do not happen. By reacting first your dog is getting the upper hand. Her reactions on the lead may be exacerbated by the fact that she cannot choose to escape. When given the choice she is avoiding contact. This is a good sign and it should be

possible to help her regain some confidence by carefully linking dogs with nice things. However, this must be taken very slowly so that she is never overwhelmed. Avoid any form of punishment if she makes a mistake; if she reacts then the other dog was too close,

or threatening in some way. After her experience it is totally natural for her to want to keep dogs away. If you need help to work on this talk to your vet as he or she can refer you to someone who can help you make the appropriate changes.

#### BEHAVIOUR

## Noise freaks him out!

**Q** I have a two-year-old Rough Collie. He has a lovely temperament but he suffers from noise phobias relating to loud bangs, wind, and sirens. I have tried plug-ins and sprays, and he takes a calming tablet every day. This helps with his everyday anxieties but not with bangs or wind. I recently bought a sound CD but I feel that he may need a stronger calming tablet short-term while I work with him on this. I know that if I just put the CD on, it will freak him out.

*Chantel Taylor-Walters, on Facebook.*

**A** **Claire says:** Working with a sound CD has to be done carefully as at no time should the dog be worried by the noises. The aim of these recordings is to play the sound at a volume and duration that the dog can cope with. In many cases the volume is barely perceptible to human ears when

you first begin. It may even be played in another room, and with the speakers muffled by a blanket. There is no quick fix to this sort of problem and regular training sessions will be required so that your dog begins to ignore the low-level noise. Gradually increase the volume over many sessions so that he habituates to the more normal level of sound. This might take weeks or months.

Depending on the product that your vet has given you, it may or may not be appropriate to give more or other supplements. Adaptil pheromone therapy is often used to support a desensitisation programme but owners doing this have to have realistic expectations. These products are only there to support the dog and will not prevent the fear reaction itself, which is why you need to expose the dog to the sounds very cautiously.

Other commonly used products include Zylkene and Calmex which,

again, have to be used with appropriate expectations. If you feel that your dog has improved on the product you have chosen, then persist, along with a systematic training programme.

If the level of fear is too extreme for your dog to learn with the sound on, even at the lowest level, then pharmaceutical support may be recommended. Often vets prefer to use this when a full behavioural programme is also underway and often a full assessment of the dog's responses are required in order to choose the most suitable medication. Therefore your vet may refer you for specific tailored advice.



Introduce sound CDs gradually.

# Dog Answers

Health

EXTRA

## THE YOUR DOG EXPERTS



Roberta Baxter MA, Vet MB, MRCVS, qualified from Cambridge University Vet School in 1993.



Holly Mash BVSc, MRCVS, specialises in herbal medicine, acupuncture, and nutrition.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The average dog will drink between 20 and 70ml of water per kilogramme of body weight per day. This will vary depending on a range of factors, including the water content of the food and the amount of exercise the dog has.

## What hope for my dog?

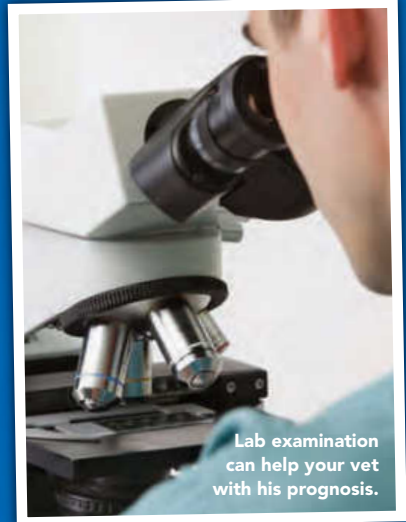
**Q** My dog has just been diagnosed with a mast cell tumour. My vet said he has about four years but I'm worried sick because they also said it could be months — they just don't know.

*Becci Lane-Johnson, on Facebook.*

**A** **Roberta says:** Mast cell tumours can be very difficult to predict; some spread and progress rapidly and others never come back. Some only recur at the site of the original tumour, while others spread through the body and cause lumps at other sites, and

within internal organs. Symptoms can vary from lumps on the body to vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy, and malaise. Any symptoms you see should be checked out, even though they might turn out to be unrelated.

Having a histopathology report following lab examination of the mass that was removed can give your vet an indication as to the likely course of events. A thorough examination of the whole body with X-rays and ultrasound scanning can allow early recognition and treatment of any secondary masses that



Lab examination can help your vet with his prognosis.

appear. Having a referral to an oncologist might allow you to explore the options available; for those dogs with more serious mast cell tumours there is chemotherapy.

## He drinks too much



Increased drinking can indicate a range of conditions.

**Q** My Chihuahua has started drinking a lot of water every day, almost three times the normal amount. He wees huge amounts too. I am wondering if it's a problem with his kidneys.

*Judith Ashabranner, on Facebook.*

**A** **Roberta says:** Increased drinking is a common symptom that can be associated with serious conditions and so should always be investigated. Common problems that can cause this include liver and kidney disease, diabetes, and hormonal conditions. Tests can be carried out on urine and blood samples to find out the reason for your dog's thirst, and it is important to check this out as soon as possible so that if a problem does exist, you can initiate appropriate treatment.





Why would a dog eat grass?

## Is it ok for dogs to eat grass?

Michele LaVista Martin, on Facebook.

**A Roberta says:** The first issue to consider is why your dog wants to eat grass; is he nauseous (dogs often use grass as an emetic)? Does he have an appetite for abnormal things? This might indicate an underlying problem such as liver or kidney disease. Is he up to date with his worming treatments? Is there something missing in his diet? Any of these problems might need to be checked out and may require treatment.

The grass eating itself is not normally problematic, but be aware that grass may carry infective lungworm larvae from slug or snail slime. It can also carry worm eggs and lead to worm infestations. Also, grass can get stuck in the throat and cause irritation, although this is uncommon.

I wouldn't worry too much about stopping your dog eating grass, but I would try to work out why he does it so that you can stop him wanting to. I suggest that you monitor your dog carefully when he does eat grass in case it causes a problem.

### DID YOU KNOW?

A recent survey of 23,000 dog owners revealed that nearly half of them allowed their dogs to sleep on their beds.

Letting your dog sleep on your bed isn't always a good idea.

## Sometimes my Beagle wets our bed; she gives no indication that she needs to go out. What can it be?

Juanri Van Der Walt, on Facebook.

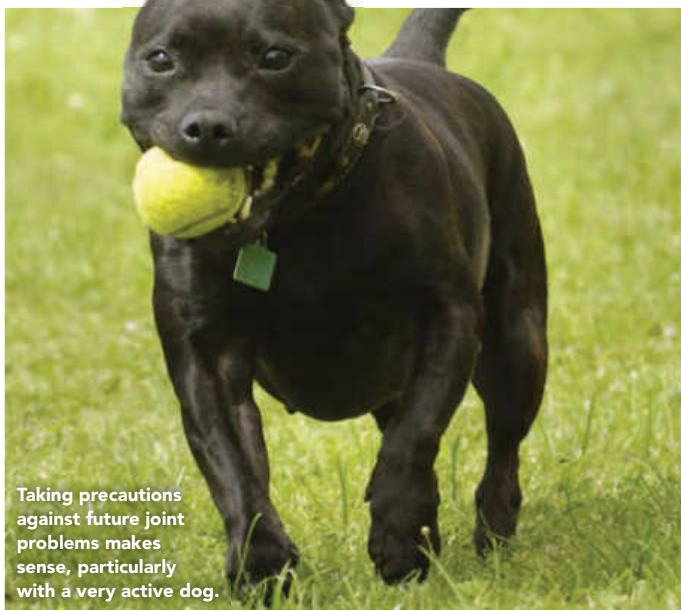
**A Roberta says:** There are a number of causes of urinary incontinence in dogs. Sometimes it's as simple as the dog having a bladder infection, or there may be issues such as bladder stones or polyps, or a weakness of the bladder sphincter muscle that causes urinary leakage.

Diseases such as diabetes or kidney disorders, which increase thirst, can make it harder for a dog to hold his bladder, and so can also cause incontinence.

It would be a good idea to get your dog seen by your vet. Take a urine sample so he or she can check out whether your dog

has an infection or a kidney problem. Blood tests, X-rays, and ultrasound might also be helpful.

Once you and your vet have identified the cause of the problem, you will be able to initiate the most appropriate treatment. Often these cases respond well to medication.



Taking precautions against future joint problems makes sense, particularly with a very active dog.

## Looking to the future

**Q** My nine-year-old rescue mongrel has an allergic reaction to glucosamine/joint medication. She is an extremely hyperactive dog and I just want to take precautions against any joint problem she might develop as she grows older.

*Cicilia Chau, on Facebook.*

**A** **Roberta says:** You could try giving your pet another source of glucosamine, but it would be worth checking with your vet first about whether this is sensible, depending on the

kind of reaction your dog has had before.

Essential fatty acid supplements such as Gomega also help maintain healthy joint function, so this might be worth trying, depending on the severity of your dog's reaction, and what exactly she is allergic to.

If your pet is overweight, then achieving and maintaining a healthy weight is probably the single most effective way to help her. Consider cutting out treats and instead give her some chopped veg, and think about putting her on a diet.

### ONE QUESTION TWO SOLUTIONS

## Damage limitation

**Q** My seven-year-old Greyhound has a touch of arthritis in his hip from his racing days and he sometimes drags his foot a bit. Is there anything I can give him to prevent it getting worse? I have tried a couple of supplements but haven't seen much of a difference. He's pretty mobile and can jump in the car but I would just like to keep him this way. Any thoughts on turmeric?

*Hannah Gatt, on Facebook.*

**A** **Holly says:** It's great to start a supplement early on, so that you can help prevent more damage to joints and more problems further down the line, so well done for planning ahead. I would suggest a high-quality glucosamine and green lipped mussel supplement such as Yumove. Turmeric is an excellent antioxidant and has a long history of use for arthritis; just put a pinch on his food daily.

**A** **Roberta says:** There are several supplements that have clinical research to support their efficacy in arthritis in dogs — and many

that don't! Glucosamine, essential fatty acids, and krill oil have all been shown to be helpful. However many of the supplements containing these products that are available on the high street fail to meet their label claims when analysed. Also a number of products claim benefits that are largely unsubstantiated.

Turmeric contains curcumin which has some anti-inflammatory activity, but the dose or efficacy in dogs remains unproven, and there is no substantiated

information about what doses are safe and what side effects could occur.

Rather than relying on anecdotal evidence, I would suggest that you try Synoquin EFA, which has been through safety and efficacy testing and which combines glucosamine, EFAs, and krill oil in appropriate proportions, and is likely to give benefit to an arthritic dog.

I would also suggest that you take your dog to your vet and get him checked out to properly identify his



Turmeric has anti-inflammatory properties.

problem and see whether it would benefit from medical treatment, and to check exactly what is going on. Arthritis rarely causes dragging of the feet, so there could be a separate nerve-related problem that would benefit from different treatment.



Athletic breeds such as Greyhounds may be prone to arthritis.

### DID YOU KNOW?

As well as turmeric, herbs such as boswellia serrata, licorice root, devil's claw, and ginger are said to help animals with arthritis.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Allergies are quite common in dogs of all breeds and backgrounds. Most start to appear when the pet is between one and four years of age.

Reduce house dust mites with regular hoovering.

ONE QUESTION TWO SOLUTIONS

# Allergic to everything!

**Q** My four-year-old Labrador bitch is allergic to rice, grass, dust, and storage mites. She licks her paws constantly and recently she had several cysts removed from her back paws. She has had steroid sprays and been on antihistamines, as well as medication for dermatitis, but nothing seems to work completely. It also looks like the licking of her paws could be out of habit. Any thought on how to stop the allergies and the licking?

*Emma Lilo Kerr, on Facebook.*

**A Holly says:** Your dog has multiple allergies and they will all require addressing. You will need to look at her diet (choosing a grain-free recipe), her environment (reducing exposure to house dust and storage mites), and in order to address her health in a holistic way I would advise consulting a homeopathic or herbal-trained vet as he or she will be able to tailor a treatment plan to your dog's specific needs. It will take time and you may need to work together with the conventional medications (such as the

antihistamines and steroid sprays) initially, to keep your dog from scratching herself raw!

**A Roberta says:** Have you tried hyposensitisation treatment as this can be helpful in some cases? I also wonder whether you have your dog on an anallergenic diet (designed for intensely allergic dogs), as this can make a big difference, and whether she is on essential fatty acid supplementation such as Coatex?

Keeping her on antihistamines can be helpful, and if steroid anti-inflammatories have to be used then better to use the spray than tablets if possible, to reduce the chance of side effects. Some dogs with allergies do better on Atopica than steroids, and some will undoubtedly benefit from a new non-steroidal anti-inflammatory called Apoquell when it becomes more widely available. Why not discuss this all further with your vet? Sadly, the underlying problems will probably never go away, so long-term medication is likely to be necessary.

**Do you have any advice on administering devil's claw? My Staffie was on it but it gave her a tummy upset. I'd really like to use it as I saw a huge difference in her mobility.**

*Lynsey Hughes, on Facebook.*

**A Holly says:** Devil's claw is a herbal anti-inflammatory and can make a great difference to arthritic dogs. Dosage varies depending on the product you are using. Check Hilton Herbs ([www.hiltonherbs.com](http://www.hiltonherbs.com)) for suitable preparations.



Devil's claw is good for mobility.

**Do dogs feel the cold as they get older, like humans? My dog is 16 years old.**

*Janis Polanski, on Facebook.*

**A Roberta says:** Some dogs do get cold as they get older, particularly if they are slim and have little body fat, or have a thin coat. If your dog seems cold, then get him a sweater, fleece, or coat, and see if he likes it.

Feeling cold can also be associated with disease; heart disease affects the circulation and can lead to coldness, and thyroid disorders cause dogs to feel the cold more, so it would be a good idea to ask a vet to check your dog over and see if he has any age-related problem that might benefit from treatment.



Many dogs benefit from a warm coat in the winter.

# Dog Answers

## General Care

# EXTRA

### THE YOUR DOG EXPERTS



Trevor Cooper is a solicitor known for championing the cause of dogs within the legal system.



John Burns BVMS, Lic Ac, MRCVS, is a vet and founder of feed company Burns Pet Nutrition.

## Am I bothered?

**Q** My eight-month-old Border Terrier goes off his food after a month or so. We had him on the food the breeder recommended, but now he won't touch it. We then tried another brand, and same again — he loved it for a few weeks but then he wouldn't touch it. He's now on about his fourth brand, which he eats OK but without enthusiasm. He'll scoff down any treat you give him, but with proper dog food he just doesn't seem that bothered.

*Mike Fletcher, on Facebook.*

**A** **John says:** This is an extremely common problem in that the dog seems to be running the show! Treats are usually tastier than proper food, so he will eat them, but when it comes to mealtimes he isn't interested. This is similar to giving a child ice cream and chocolate and then wondering why he won't eat at mealtimes.

Firstly you need to decide what food he should have; offer this once a day — early evening is best because he will be

hungrier than in the morning. The amount you give should be less than the recommended daily amount. Don't give him any treats for now.

You may find that it will take a day or two before he eats anything because he has been stuffing himself for weeks on end. In a while you will be able to establish how much you need to give him so that he clears it each time.

**Treats can be tastier than proper food!**



## Weekly vomit

**Q** I have two Maltipoos. When I adopted them they had some problems adjusting to the diet (they used to eat dry kibble) so now I cook for them, mixing meat with vegetables. I don't understand why one of them gets sick constantly; at least once a week he vomits a bile-like substance, yellow with a vinegary smell.

*Urpi Jimenez, on Facebook.*

**A** **John says:** This recurring vomiting is due to a low-grade toxic condition of the gut, caused by too much food, in this instance probably the meat; vegetables rarely cause a problem. Firstly decide whether you want to continue cooking for the dogs or whether

you would prefer to give a dry food.

If you are happy cooking for them, I suggest you reduce the amount of meat and introduce some brown rice into the mix; one third each of meat, vegetables, and brown rice is about right and they can be boiled up together. Long-term you may have to think about supplementing with vitamins and minerals.

If you go back to dry kibble, I suggest a high-quality, hypo-allergenic food which is based on whole grains. Wean them on to this over a week or two, by mixing it in with the gradually reducing cooked meat and vegetables, and feeding once a day only. Lastly, keep the

feeding amount low, probably less than the manufacturer's recommended amount for the dogs' weight. The dog who vomits may need less than the other one, even if they are the same age and weight.

**For home-cooked food combine meat, vegetables, and brown rice.**







## Diary of a countryman

### ABOUT STEPHEN

Stephen Jenkinson is an expert on where you can go, and what you can do, with your dog. He's access adviser to Your Dog Magazine, the Kennel Club, and local councils across the UK and abroad. He lives in Orkney with his Border Collie, Jess.

**Stephen Jenkinson reflects on how our attitudes towards dog training have changed — for the better!**

**W**hile it's always heartening to see young people at Crufts enjoying life with their dogs, it will be especially poignant for me this year.

It is 40 years since I did a very 'bad thing'; as a 12-year-old at my evening dog training class in West Yorkshire, I bluntly rejected the instructor's wisdom in front of a church hall full of adults. It was the last time I ever attended that training club with my first dog, a collie X Labrador called Smokey.

Now four decades later, I've at last embraced my outburst as a 'good thing'.

In those days there wasn't anything to do with your dog apart from obedience — no agility, no Young Kennel Club, no heelwork to music, and none of the fun activities that are now on show every day at Crufts. There was just obedience, with — in the 1970s — its all-too-obvious roots in military culture, dominance, and punishment.

It was a culture that pushed me to defy my then trainer because I didn't want to train my dog like that — giving ever stronger yanks on the choke chain, to punish her for the seemingly heinous crime of walking a few inches in front of my left leg.

For many years I'd viewed my mutinous childhood outburst that night as simply rude and disrespectful. But recently I've become rather proud of what I now see as the first signs of my belief in challenging compromises in canine welfare, be it

the modern-day use of shock collars, or excessive restrictions on walking dogs on beaches.

Back in 1976, I didn't know about positive reinforcement or clicker training. All I knew was there had to be a better way to train my best friend than roughly tightening a metal chain around her neck.

Thankfully, at Crufts this month we'll see even more examples of how people — young and old — can train dogs to do amazing things by simply rewarding what they do want. Clicker training and other positive methods are now the norm in the obedience world too.

Dogs do need to be trained for a happy and healthy life. But as the song says: 'It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it.'

## Under attack

**Q** My dog was attacked recently. Three dogs who were off lead ran up to her and one was particularly aggressive and tried to knock her over. This happened on a regular local walk in the New Forest where dogs are allowed off lead. My dog was under control and on a lead. The owners of the other dogs were not able to recall effectively and they offered no apology.

My query is where do I stand legally if I see these dogs again and if I take a photo of them and their owners. Is a retrospective photo acceptable?

*Hilary Keens, email address.*

**A Trevor says:** Councils and the police were given new powers to deal with nuisance when the Anti-social Crime & Policing Act 2014 came into force at the end of 2014. This provides enforcers with the power to deal with conduct that is having a 'detrimental effect' on the quality of life of those in the locality. To qualify, the conduct must be unreasonable and either persistent or continuing.

The behaviour that you've described could well be regarded as unreasonable as well as having a detrimental effect on you. However, on its own it wouldn't satisfy the

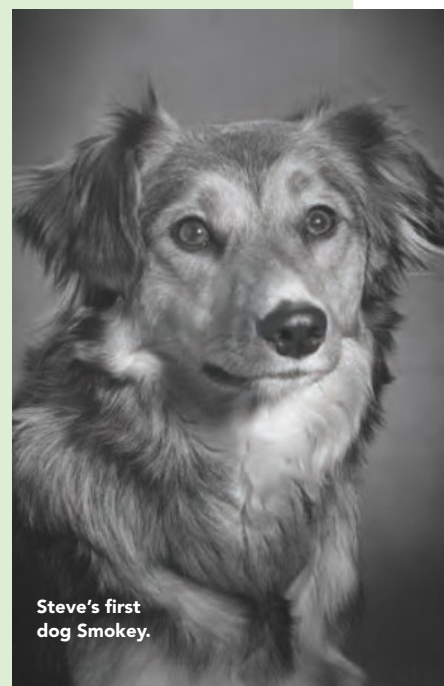
requirement to be 'persistent or continuing'.

I suggest you report the incident to the council and ask them what information they need, as a description of the dog walkers may be enough to identify them. Potentially, this could be the latest in a series of complaints and perhaps you could be the key to action being taken. Even if it's the first time this behaviour has been brought to the council's attention it does mean that it's likely to be noted and so should there be a similar incident that record will be available.

The steps in the process are:

1. A written warning is served giving a reasonable time for compliance.
2. If that is breached, then a Community Protection Notice can be served requiring specified things to be done (which could perhaps include a requirement for the dog(s) to be on a lead, muzzled, excluded from specified places, or to attend training classes).
3. If this is breached, then it can be enforced by a Fixed Penalty Notice (up to £100) or a prosecution (up to £2,500 for an individual and the court has the power to order the forfeiture of the dog).

So far, there has been limited use of these powers.



# "I really didn't think I would see her again"

## LOST & FOUND

Barbara Dennett tells **Joanne Bednall** how her lost dog was plucked to safety from the English Channel.



"Misty is priceless to us," said Barbara Dennett, a 70-year-old retired company secretary from Seaford, East Sussex.

"My husband John and I have had a dog for every one of the 51 years we've been married, and Misty is our second Border Collie. She's such an easy, well-trained, and obedient dog, who slots comfortably into family life; she loves people in general and our granddaughter, Lauren, in particular.

"When our neighbour, Eric, offered to take Misty for a walk with his elderly Border Collie on the afternoon of Thursday, September 24, 2015, I readily agreed. With my gentle warning: 'Don't let Misty off her lead, Eric,' ringing in the air, I watched them amble off down the driveway.

"Two hours later, Eric was standing despondently on the doorstep, a lead dangling at his side. Usually, Misty barks when someone's at the door but there was just silence and I immediately had that feeling of dread. 'You've lost her, haven't you?' were my first words to him.

"Nodding slowly, Eric explained that he'd walked to Tide Mills beach, near Newhaven, and, thinking it was safe to do so, had let Misty off her lead. But something had spooked her and she'd run off. All I can think is that she must

have lost sight of Eric and panicked.

"At first, Eric walked along the beach in hot pursuit but in the meantime, we think Misty must have tried to retrace her steps, in an effort to get back to where they'd parted company.

"Realising it was a fruitless search on his own, Eric, who's 70, returned home and, between us, we contacted the local police, the dog warden, veterinary surgeons, and DogLost.

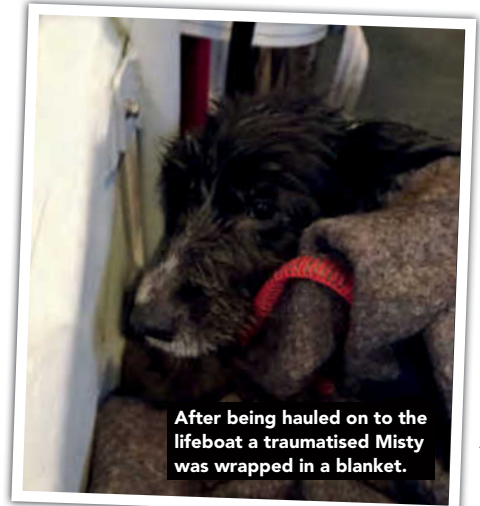
**"Totally out of character, Misty went into the sea near Buckle car park and started to swim."**

"While Eric put the word out on social media, I scoured the streets with Lauren, looking in all the likely places, asking passers-by and joggers if they'd seen a blue and white Border Collie and calling Misty's name until we were hoarse.

"Someone reported on Facebook that they'd seen a dog running into Seaford Railway Station, while the next sighting was of Misty crossing the busy A259, once named the most dangerous road in South East England.

"She was then spotted running back along the beach. By now, so many people were involved in trying to catch her that I think Misty must have been really scared to do what she did next.

"Totally out of character, she went into the sea near Buckle car park and started to swim. Misty doesn't like water and had never been in the sea before; she's frightened of the waves. But she just kept going. Luckily, an onlooker contacted Eric via Facebook and rang Newhaven Coastguard, who dispatched a response vehicle. Eric arrived at the beach with his 14-year-old grandson, who could see Misty



Pic: Newhaven RNLI





Anxiously awaiting the return of the lifeboat after Misty's rescue.

swimming further out so went into the sea up to his knees, calling her, but couldn't tempt her back. She was even too far out for the Coastguard's rescue swimmers to reach her, so they alerted Newhaven Lifeboat. While two of the Coastguard's rescue swimmers stayed on the beach in case Misty did a U-turn and headed back to shore, the lifeboat crew went to her aid.

"Apparently, Misty had swum out 200 metres and was struggling to stay afloat. By now, she'd been in the water for three-quarters of an hour — it's thought she wouldn't have survived another two minutes — so the lifeboat arrived in the nick of time. Misty's head kept going under water so two crewmen, Dave Lossing and Adam Welch, jumped into the sea to support her, and between them, they managed to haul her onboard. They saved her life but Misty was so frightened that she repaid Dave by biting his hand as he tried to drag her out of the water.

"Once they got her into the wheelhouse, they wrapped her in a blanket to keep her warm and she calmed down.

"Back at the lifeboat station, Eric was waiting to take Misty straight to an emergency vet in Brighton, while Dave was whisked to an out-of-hours doctor for a tetanus jab.

"The vet feared Misty might not survive the night, so she was put on a drip, and treated for saltwater ingestion and a cut on her leg, which was stapled. She remained there for a day and a half but had improved sufficiently by the Saturday for me to take her home.

"A month later, we returned to the lifeboat station to thank the crewmen for their actions — they were pleased to see

Misty looking so well — and I think Dave forgave her for biting him, especially when we handed over a tin of biscuits, and joked about bringing some plasters!

"I was totally unaware of Misty's ordeal at the time, I was at home waiting for news from Eric, or in case she found her way back. It was Eric's wife, Jean, who filled me in on the lifeboat drama.

"Misty was missing for only three hours

but it felt much longer. At one stage, I really didn't think I would see her again. My biggest fear was her being hit by a car on the main road — she's not very streetwise — or falling off a cliff.

"We are longstanding supporters of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution; we have RNLI Governor membership and donate annually — but they have more than repaid us by saving Misty."

## ADVICE FOR SEA DOGS — AND THEIR OWNERS

Newhaven Lifeboat coxswain mechanic Paul Legendre recalled Misty's dramatic rescue well.

"When we reached the dog, she was repeatedly going under the waves and was exhausted," explained Paul, who owns a Springer Spaniel and a Labrador.

"The sea was choppy and I couldn't get the boat close enough to the dog so I dropped one crew member in as near as I could. Then I dropped another a short distance away in the hope that the dog would swim towards him."

Despite getting Misty safely onboard, Paul said that the seven-strong crew didn't expect her to survive. "She couldn't walk and we thought she might pass away on the journey back," he said.

Paul added that it was unusual for the lifeboat to deal with a dog who had swum out from the beach, and, until Misty, they'd received no formal training in how to rescue live animals at sea.

But the incident prompted Newhaven Lifeboat to approach the RSPCA, which donated two pairs of protective gloves and a 'grasper' (a metal pole with a noose at the end).

"We mostly collect dogs who've died from falling off the cliffs after chasing a rabbit or seagull," continued Paul, who added that, in the last three years, the lifeboat had picked up five or six canine bodies.

"Although it's expensive, we always launch the lifeboat in these cases as it prevents the owner risking their own life to recover their pet."

In an effort to stress the importance of always putting dogs on leads when walking near cliffs, Newhaven Lifeboat ran a coffee morning with advice for owners last summer.

About 30 people brought their dogs along to the event, for which the RNLI provided posters.

"It's lovely scenery around here, but we see too many dogs die," said Paul, who's hoping to run another coffee morning this summer following the success of the last one.

As well as advising owners to always put their dogs on leads on cliff paths, he also warns them never to go in the water after a dog, but to call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.



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**What a great start to 2016!!**



# Pleased to meet you!

For Angie Aspinall, the long wait for a Hearing Dog is over, as this extract from her diary reveals.

**AUG  
2015**

What a day! I received an email from Nicci Cross, one of Hearing

Dogs' trainers, saying they have a possible match for me. He's a Cockerpoo puppy called Sam. They sent a photo — he is gorgeous! We can't wait to meet him. He's coming to stay overnight and we will then have to decide by the morning if we'd like him to join our family. The next email from Nicci said: "Sam's got a lovely sweet character; he's affectionate and playful. He is nice off lead on walks, and loves to play ball games. I'm sure you'll love him." I'm sure we will too! Let's hope Tilly and Sam get on; our little Westie's going to be in for a shock having another dog in the house.

**SEP 1  
2015**

I don't know how much sleep I'm going to get tonight. I can't wait to meet Sam. Nicci's bringing him over early tomorrow afternoon and I've suggested that we take both dogs for a walk first so they meet on neutral territory before Sam comes into Tilly's home.



## ABOUT ANGIE

Accessibility consultant, trainer, and freelance journalist, Angie Aspinall suffered sudden profound sensorineural deafness in 2011. In 2015, she was matched to a Hearing Dog. Here, she shares her diary of the early days of getting to know Sam.

Angie is married to Your Dog contributor Richard Aspinall and the couple live in Yorkshire with their Westie, Tilly.

Pics: Richard Aspinall.

**Sam with his favourite ball.**





If applicants already have a pet dog they may have to wait until that dog is around 10 years old before being matched. The dog has to be assessed to ensure their behaviour will not affect the work of the Hearing Dog.

## SEP 2 2015

So far, so good! Nicci arrived this afternoon and we took Sam and Tilly to the local woods for a walk and then on into the fields. I was amazed how good Sam's recall was, coming back to me when I called him, even though I'm a total stranger. Unlike Tilly, Sam is ball-obsessed and it seems that whoever has the ball has his attention so I must remember to have that with

me whenever we go out for a walk.

Sam is beautiful and has the longest eyelashes I have ever seen. He has such an intense gaze: knowing, curious, interested. I think I might just have fallen in love with him already. It's bedtime now and he's carrying around his comforter — a toy monkey that he's had since he was a puppy. We've decided that we'd like him to live with us.

Sam and Tilly got along well.

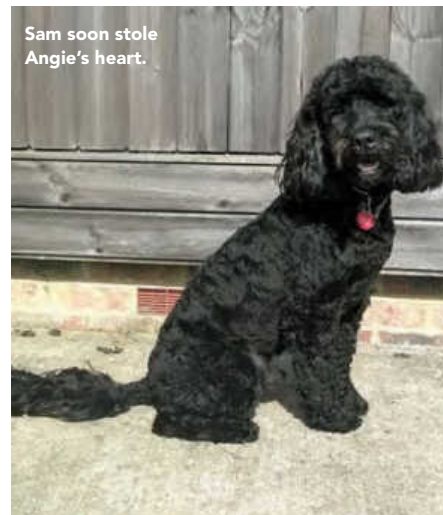
## SEP 3 2015

It's official — Sam is coming to live with us! I've signed the papers and we've agreed a date for him to move in: October 26. After a year of waiting, we've found what I hope will be the perfect match.

Each Hearing Dog has specialised sound work training where they learn to alert to the key sounds of doorbell, alarm clock, and cooker timer. They are then assessed on the tenth week to ensure they meet the Assistance Dog criteria. Once they've passed this assessment, the team looks for a match for the dog and an initial meeting is arranged.

If this meeting is successful and the match is agreed, the dog will then complete their full 17 weeks of training, after which the recipient and their family will usually spend a week at a Hearing Dog centre (either in Yorkshire or in Buckinghamshire) for more specific 'sound work'. Sam, however, is part of a pilot scheme where volunteer puppy socialiser, Sheila Pilliner has done the training while fostering him, and the rest of the sound work training will be done at our home with Nicci.

Sam soon stole Angie's heart.





In terms of alerting me, there are sounds I need to hear when I am not wearing my hearing aids (alarm clock, smoke alarm, telephones) but also sounds I can't hear when I have my hearing aids in (telephones, doorbell, cooker timer). The signal Sam will use to alert me to a sound is a nudge on the knee and, as his arrival coincided with my need to have a knee operation, it was agreed that Sam would move in with us on a foster care basis initially until the knee was pain-free.

As the date of Sam's arrival approached, we got a new bed, bowl, and a cuddly donkey he could chew and destroy while settling in!



Enjoying a walk together.

**OCT 26**  
**2015**

Sam arrived this afternoon. We think he remembered us — and Tilly. He seemed pleased to see me and kept sidling up and leaning against my leg while I was sitting on the sofa. He likes to put his head on my knee and be petted and I was only too happy to oblige. Well, there will be plenty more where that came from!

**NOV**  
**2015**

Sam's settled in so well. Nicci's really pleased with how he's doing. Today she came to accompany me and Sam while I delivered a social media training course. It was the first time I've seen Sam in his uniform. As soon as it went on, he sat up to attention and was so calm, so still. On arrival at the training room, I settled Sam on a blanket under the front desk, and he stayed there as good as gold. While I waxed lyrical about using Twitter for business, Sam was there keeping a watchful eye on me.

**DEC 18**  
**2015**

Today, Nicci came so we could try Sam in his uniform out in the 'real world'. She suggested observing us while I did a supermarket shop so we went to get a few things for Christmas. The staff were great — none of them batted an eyelid. The lady on the till was lovely and asked how long I'd had Sam and if I was a lip reader. She told me that her mum was deaf too.

Sam behaved really well, although I'm sure the smell of fresh bread must have been incredibly tantalising to him with his superior sense of smell. Some of the other shoppers seemed mildly curious, but this didn't make me feel too self-conscious so, all in all, I think it went well.

We then went to our local dog-friendly cafe with Sam in his uniform so Nicci could assess his behaviour. He passed with flying colours, lying by my feet and snoozing while we ate our lunch.

**"Sam has such an intense gaze: knowing, curious, interested. I think I might just have fallen in love with him already."**



Full speed ahead — Sam enjoys a run around.

**DEC 19**  
**2015**

Nicci wanted to see me and Sam in action in another environment today and so we went to the local garden centre. Almost every member of staff came to say hello to

Sam — and a few even said hello to me! Everyone who spoke to me recognised the burgundy uniform and they all knew what a Hearing Dog did; some were clearly considerate of my communication needs too, facing me while speaking

and speaking clearly. I managed to do some Christmas shopping too, so it was a good day! I'm looking forward to starting our sound work training.

## Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Qs & As

### **Q** Are Hearing Dogs as well-trained as Guide Dogs?

**A** Yes. Hearing Dogs are entitled to the same access rights as Guide Dogs, and adhere to the highest training and welfare standards as set out by Assistance Dogs International.

### **Q** Does a Hearing Dog wear a uniform at home?

**A** Hearing Dogs aren't in uniform all the time. The uniform is worn when the dogs are working outside of the home; it's like a badge showing the dog's job and their training credentials in order to allow them access to premises where dogs are not otherwise allowed. Hearing Dogs don't wear their uniforms at home or when out on their recreational walks.

### **Q** If some recipients have hearing aids/cochlear implants, why do they need their Hearing Dog with them in shops and cafes?

**A** Hearing Dogs do so much more than alert their recipient to sounds. A Hearing Dog gives a deaf person the independence and confidence to go out without feeling alone. Deafness can be isolating and many recipients say their Hearing Dog has given them back confidence which their deafness took away. Recipients are responsible for the welfare of their dog 24/7; a Hearing Dog can't be 'turned off' and put away when not in use.

### **Q** Is it OK to pet a Hearing Dog while he's in uniform?

**A** We recommend that you always ask the recipient before approaching a Hearing Dog. If you fail to attract the attention of the recipient, please do not distract the Hearing Dog, as this



Sam is hugely attentive.

Hearing Dogs receive weeks of training.



may cause some difficulties for the person the dog is supporting. While many Hearing Dog recipients use hearing aids or cochlear implants, some have no hearing at all so it is important to bear communication needs in mind before making an approach.

To find out more about Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, to make a donation, or sponsor a puppy, visit [www.hearingdogs.org.uk](http://www.hearingdogs.org.uk)



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# The Crufts Quiz

The countdown to Crufts has begun, but how much do you know about the world's greatest dog show? Find out in our fun quiz.

**1** Charles Cruft founded the show in 1891 and went on to run it until his death in 1938, but what was his job originally?  
**A.** Dog biscuit salesman.  
**B.** Dog groomer.  
**C.** Dog breeder.

**3** Which breed has won the most Best in Show titles?  
**A.** German Shepherd Dog.  
**B.** Labrador Retriever.  
**C.** Cocker Spaniel.

Pictured below and right are three Best in Show winners. For questions 4, 5, and 6 can you name the breeds?

**4** **A.** Pyrenean Mountain Dog.  
**B.** Maremma Sheepdog.  
**C.** Hungarian Kuvasz.

**5** **A.** Sealyham Terrier.  
**B.** Cesky Terrier.  
**C.** Scottish Terrier.

**2** Greyhound Primley Sceptre was the winner of the first Best in Show title at Crufts, but in what year?  
**A.** 1902.  
**B.** 1928.  
**C.** 1891.

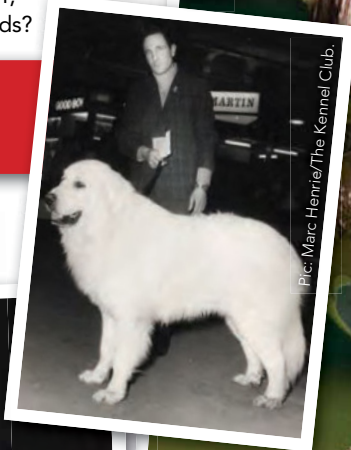
**6** **A.** Border Collie.  
**B.** Australian Shepherd.  
**C.** Belgian Shepherd Dog.



Pic: The Kennel Club.



Pic: Marc Henner/The Kennel Club.



Pic: Marc Henner/The Kennel Club.



Pic: Lisa Croft-Elliott/The Kennel Club.



**7** Which breed classes attract the most entrants?

- A. Border Collie.
- B. Standard Poodle.
- C. Labrador Retriever.

**8** And roughly how many entrants do they attract?

- A. 540.
- B. 850.
- C. 320.

**9** Roughly how many fans does the Crufts Facebook page have?

- A. 1,750.
- B. 17,500.
- C. 175,000.

**10** Chris Amoo won Best in Show at Crufts in 1987 with his Afghan Hound Viscount Grant. What was he better known as?

- A. An actor in 'Coronation Street'.
- B. Dog groomer to the stars.
- C. Singer in the pop group 'The Real Thing'.

**11** In 1948 the first Leonberger to be exhibited at Crufts caused quite a stir. He had been bought from an Austrian farmer by an English soldier for...

- A. Ten bars of soap.
- B. A pouch of tobacco.
- C. A pair of walking boots.

**12** In 2010 who interrupted the judging of the gundog group?

- A. A streaker.
- B. A group of animal rights activists.
- C. A loose dog.

**13** What caused the show to be moved from March to May in 2001?

- A. A fire at the NEC.
- B. Heavy snow.
- C. An outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

**14** Which breed group has produced the most Best in Show winners?

- A. Hound.
- B. Gundog.
- C. Terrier.

**15** Lorna, Countess Howe became the first female owner of a Best in Show winner in 1932 with her Labrador. What was his name?

- A. Bramshaw Bob.
- B. Tadcaster Tom.
- C. Buckminster Bill.

### ANSWERS:

Q1. A; Q2. B; Q3. C — the Cocker Spaniel has won Best in Show seven times; Q4. A — Pyrenean Mountain Dog Bergerie Knur won BIS in 1970; Q5. A — Sealyham Terrier Efbe's Hidalgo At Goodspice won BIS in 2009; Q6. B — Australian Shepherd Caitland Isle Take a Chance won BIS in 2006; Q7. C; Q8. A; Q9. C; Q10. C; Q11. A — David Gower spotted the dog in 1945 while serving with the British forces. Determined to save its life, he rushed back to the mess and managed to persuade other soldiers to give up their valuable soap rations; Q12. A; Q13. C; Q14. B — there have been 23 winners from the gundog group, 10 from the hound, and 21 from the terrier; Q15. A; Q16. He was the grandfather of Clare's much-loved TT, Archie.

### CRUFTS 2016

This year's show takes place from March 10 – 13, 2016, at the NEC, Birmingham. For more information visit [www.crufts.org.uk](http://www.crufts.org.uk)

If you do attend the show, be sure to come along and meet the Your Dog team at hall 4, stand 32.

Pic: The Kennel Club.

Pic: Marc Henrie/The Kennel Club.

**16** The 2007 Best in Show winner was Tibetan Terrier Araki Fabulous Willy. What was his connection to TV presenter Clare Balding?

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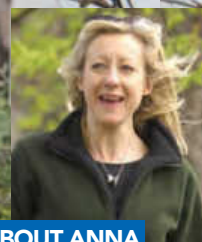
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## BRINGING UP *Bullie*



### ABOUT ANNA

Anna Webb is co-presenter of BBC London's 'The Barking Hour' and also appeared regularly on the 'Alan Titchmarsh Show'. She recently moved out of London to enjoy an alternative lifestyle with her pets, and pursue her interest in holistic therapies.

It's a stand-off!

# Close encounters

It's time for Mini Bull Terrier pup Prudence to meet the rest of the gang. 'Barking Blonde' Anna Webb reports.

**P**rudence had proved a dream passenger on our epic six-hour car journey from Belgium (where I picked her up).

By the time we got home to Buckinghamshire she had got her second wind and made a dramatic entrance.

If looks could kill — my cat, Gremlin, gave Prudence a double take. He decided to do his 'panther' impression, and tripled in size. English Toy Terrier Dexter looked a bit confused; he did the shakes and went for a lie down.

Pru was clearly impressed by Gremlin's flying skills, so he showed off a bit more with a few 'catrobatics' and death-defying leaps. He remained cool, calm, and

collected, while Pru got way too overexcited (jumping on the spot being her default when things get too much).

When excitement got the better of her, Gremlin firmly put her in her place. He gave her a left hook and Pru obeyed his commands and backed down. She couldn't quite twig that Gremlin — being a cat — couldn't play like a dog. As long as Pru didn't chase Gremlin, he'd keep the upper paw.

Being relatively quiet, our village is quite limited for desensitising and training through distractions opportunities, so I defaulted to what I knew best — London and training in Finsbury Park, where I'd trained with my previous Mini Bull Terrier, Molly. Packed with real-life urban distractions — people, smells, sirens, traffic, cyclists, joggers, and other dogs — it's a tough but character-building environment.

Juggling life with Pru proved to be a baptism of fire. I tried to think if it had been this full on with Molly. Sadly



When Pru's excitement got the better of her, Gremlin would put her in her place.

my kitchen didn't get away unscathed, thanks to Pru's antics. The standard lamp proved to be beyond repair, but luckily wood glue will fix the collapsed vintage chair!

Our mantra is short but proactive training sessions. I've used a clicker from day one, and it's definitely made a big difference.

Honorary dog trainer Gremlin joins in. He'll sit and watch us, and then, as if on cue, turn himself into a moving target, a hot distraction.

Zooming past us during a sit/stay exercise or when attempting 'attention walking', Gremlin makes everything more difficult — on purpose — which is purrfect!

It's funny how the wheels keep turning. Gremlin arrived as a five-month-old kitten, and Molly bossed and trained him to

be an exceptional cat. When Dexter arrived Molly sat back as Gremlin bossed Dexter. Now it's Dexter's turn to watch Prudence taking the rap from Gremlin!

When Pru grows up I might enrol her as a 'metal detection' dog. It took her literally two seconds to find and swallow a sewing needle buried in the fringing of my mother's sofa.

The local emergency vet was a saint. Agreeing that the best plan was to hope nature would take its course, we monitored Pru. Apart from a panic phone call to the vet's at 3.20am, no surgery or sedation was required.

Molly and I used to dine out on how we disproved Barbara Woodhouse's famous claim that Bull Terriers were untrainable. Pru has a hard act to follow, but we have high hopes!



Anna has high hopes for Pru.

Pics: Natasha Balletta Photography.





# Let's Shape up!

## PART 12

Our final three exercises to help you and your dog get fit.

Over the past year, we've been building up a training programme

with help from dog trainer Lisa Jackson (pictured), from Kempsey, Worcestershire.

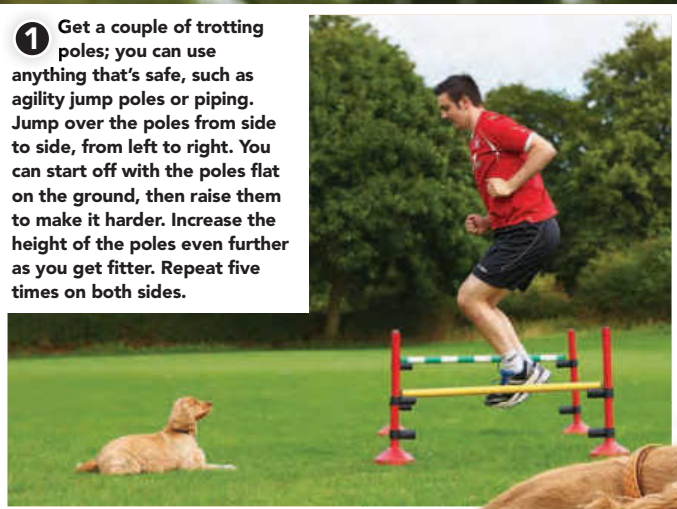
Your Dog readers can do the exercises together with their pets, as part of a fitness programme. The exercises were easy to begin with and became progressively more difficult. We hope you've enjoyed trying the exercises in the series — let us know how you got on.

Don't forget, it's important to warm up before exercising; we showed you three warm-up exercises in the April 2015 issue.



### EXERCISE 1: SIDE TO SIDE

**1** Get a couple of trotting poles; you can use anything that's safe, such as agility jump poles or piping. Jump over the poles from side to side, from left to right. You can start off with the poles flat on the ground, then raise them to make it harder. Increase the height of the poles even further as you get fitter. Repeat five times on both sides.



**2** Then get your dog to jump over the poles 10 times.





## EXERCISE 2: SLALOM



Set out two poles parallel to each other, wide enough apart so you and your dog can go through the gap together. Run over the two poles...



...then slalom between them back to the start.



You can then walk backwards over the poles, with your dog walking alongside you. Repeat the exercise 10 times.

## EXERCISE 3: SKIPPING



You will need two people to help with this exercise. Lay a skipping rope on the ground. Get your dog to go over it several times. Start to bring in a command such as 'Jump in'.



Lift the skipping rope slightly off the ground and ask your dog to jump over it; keep the rope taut. Gradually increase the height of the rope off the ground. Make sure you get the command well established.

Once your dog is jumping the rope, wriggle it slightly so he gets used to the movement. Increase the movement until your dog will jump the rope while it's moving; it may take lots of practice to get this right.



Eventually you and your dog can skip the rope together, although it may take some time.

## GET FIT DIARY

### A winning team

We find out how dog owner Frances Farley, from Chatham, Kent, and her Standard Poodle, Grace, have got on with the Get Fit with Fido campaign over the past 12 months.

Frances said: "Grace didn't need to lose weight as she's always been fit but I wanted to lose some. This time last year I was a size 18 and now I can fit into a size 12 so I've lost about two stone, despite having a problem with my thyroid.

"I wanted to become more interactive with Grace which was my motivation. We've been doing agility and advanced obedience classes outside at the weekends. In the summer we took part in companion dog shows, which helped get me moving around the ring with Grace.

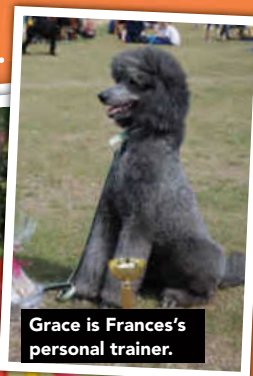
"Grace has really enjoyed all the activities we have done together and we have built a better bond over the past year.

"I wanted to do the Get Fit with Fido programme because at the launch event I had an opportunity to talk to a nutritionist and get ideas on how to manage my relationship with food.

"Grace is my personal trainer; we've become a great team in agility, which allows me to run and get moving.



Agility has enabled Grace and Frances to build a great bond.



Grace is Frances's personal trainer.

I live near Whitstable so we've also been enjoying longer walks on the beach.

"I am really pleased with my progress and the bond I have built with my dog. When you do all these activities together you become a team, rather than just pet and owner.

"We will continue to do our activities this year. Why join the gym when I have my own personal trainer at home?"

● For further information about the Kennel Club's Get Fit with Fido campaign, visit [www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/get-fit-with-fido/](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/get-fit-with-fido/)





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### Mekuti Balance Harness

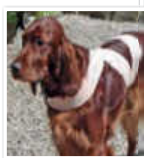
### Anxious behaviour

### T-Shirts & Body Wraps

**Calming your dog with a T-Shirt or Body Wrap helps reduce:**

- Thunder and firework fright
- Aggression towards dogs and people
- Car and travel problems

"It really works! We had a week of fireworks and thunder. Every time I put it on him within five minutes he was asleep. I am so grateful!" Cath, Wuff Dog Training



### Excessive Barking

### Calming Band

**A Calming Band is a very gentle way to help reduce:**

- Barking, whining and licking
- Discomfort in unfamiliar surroundings

"I really didn't expect this to work, but it has! Before, he would start barking at any dog as soon as he could see them now he greets them with his tail wagging." Mrs J.C., Durham



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# Cumbria and the Lake District

We head north to Cumbria to find out what makes it a top holiday destination for dog owners.



Cumbria and the Lake District

Pic: Podgy Paws pet shop.

**C**umbria is one of the most popular holiday destinations for dog owners, and it's easy to see why. Home to the Lake District National Park, the north Pennines, and part of the Yorkshire Dales, this rural county has much to offer canine visitors.

Cumbria is the most north-western county in England, and borders Scotland. If you're planning to visit Cumbria and the Lakes this year, make sure you check out this doggy guide to the area first.



The Lake District is the perfect outdoor playground for dogs.

## DAYS OUT AND ATTRACTIONS

### ● Keswick, Lake District

— no visit to Cumbria is complete without stopping off in Keswick, which is situated in the northern lakes on the shores of Derwentwater.

The town is incredibly dog friendly, with dogs welcomed in many pubs, shops, attractions, and on public transport. In fact, you will probably spot more dogs than people milling about the high street. Dog-friendly

highlights include boat trips on Derwentwater operated by Keswick Launch, Crow Park and Hope Park (the latter has a pretty woodland walk and ornamental gardens), the Dog & Gun pub, department store George Fisher, and Podgy Paws pet shop, which has a pet-friendly information centre. There are also miles of open spaces where dogs can really enjoy the outdoors.

### ● Lakeland Motor Museum, Ulverston

— this busy museum has a collection of 30,000 exhibits including classic cars and motorbikes — and you don't have to leave your dog behind while you visit. Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome in all areas inside the museum except the cafe. The cafe has an outside seating area where dogs are allowed. The museum is open every day except Christmas Day.

For further information visit [www.lakelandmotormuseum.co.uk](http://www.lakelandmotormuseum.co.uk) or call 01539 530400.



The Lakeland Motor Museum is dog friendly.



● **Bowness on Solway** — venture to a quieter corner of Cumbria; from Bowness you can pick up the Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail, walking along the shores of Bowness Marsh towards nearby Port Carlisle, where you can see the Scottish mountains on a clear day. Bowness on Solway has lots of Roman history including a Romanesque archway which marks the finish/start of the Hadrian's Wall Path and the remains of the second largest fort on the wall. The Solway Coast is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

● **Brantwood, Coniston** — the former home of Victorian art critic John Ruskin which is now a museum. Although dogs are not allowed inside the house, they are welcome in the gardens and cafe on a lead. The mountainside gardens are set in a 250-acre wooded estate, offering fantastic views over Coniston Water. Bowls of water are provided on the restaurant terrace and inside the shop. For further information visit [www.brantwood.org.uk](http://www.brantwood.org.uk) or call 01539 441396.

● **Grizedale Forest Park** — set in the heart of the Lake District, the park has miles of paths for dogs and owners to explore. Owners are asked to follow the park's dog code which includes keeping pets on leads around the visitor centre and picking up their poo. For further information visit [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

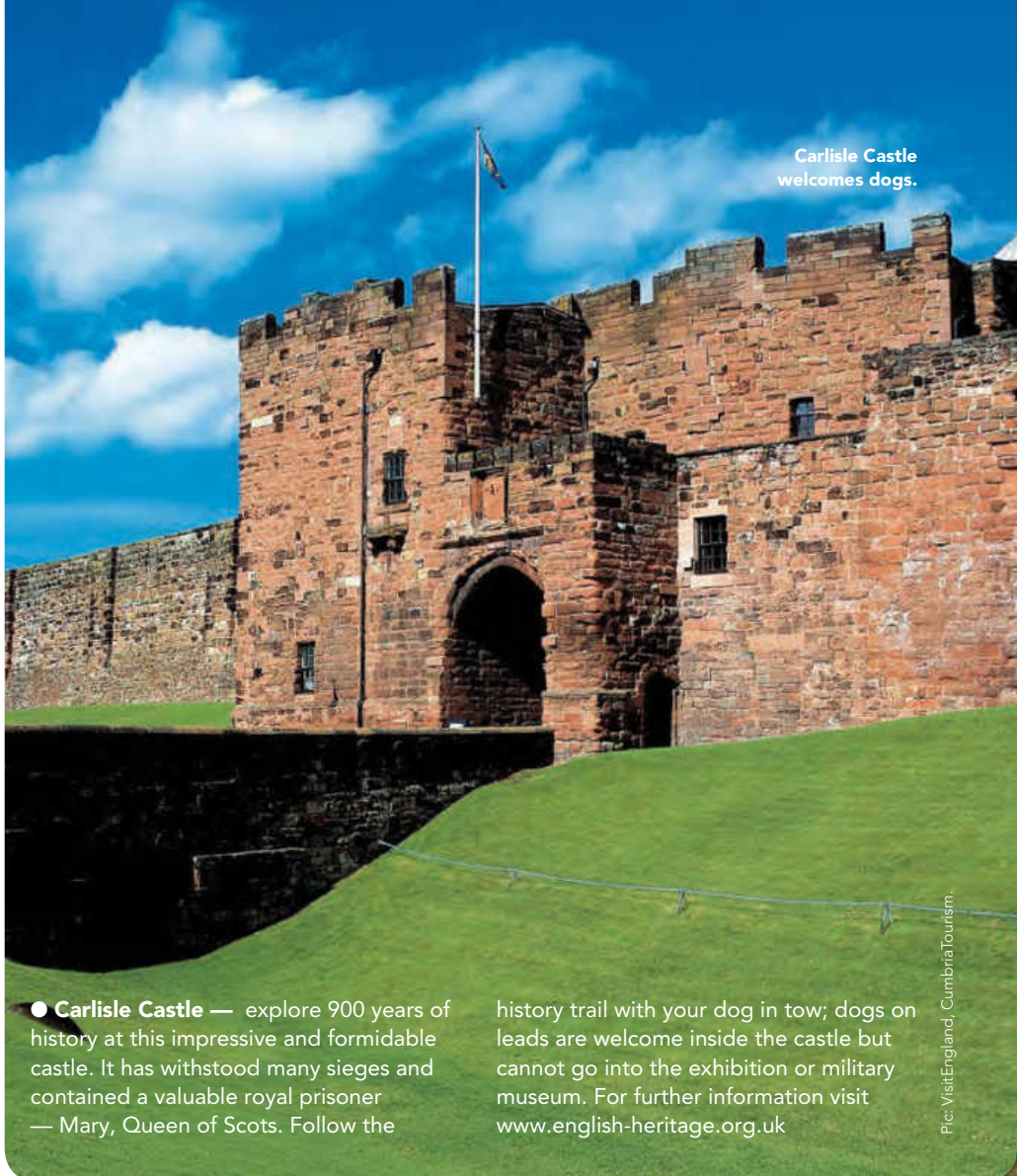
## OTHER DOG-FRIENDLY ATTRACTIONS

- The Pencil Museum, Keswick.
- Hutton-in-the-Forest, Penrith (not in the house).
- Muncaster Castle gardens, Ravenglass.
- Steam Yacht Gondola, Coniston.

The Lakes are top for dogs.

Pic: golakes.co.uk

Carlisle Castle welcomes dogs.



● **Carlisle Castle** — explore 900 years of history at this impressive and formidable castle. It has withstood many sieges and contained a valuable royal prisoner — Mary, Queen of Scots. Follow the

history trail with your dog in tow; dogs on leads are welcome inside the castle but cannot go into the exhibition or military museum. For further information visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

Pic: VisitEngland, Cumbria Tourism.



Go for a cruise on Lake Windermere.

### ● Windermere Lake Cruises

— start your journey on England's largest natural lake from Ambleside, Bowness, Brockhole, or Lakeside Pier. Dogs are allowed on any of the boats free of charge and they even get their own tickets.

Boats sail every day except Christmas Day and trips last between 45 minutes and three hours. For further information visit [www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk](http://www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk) or call 01539 443360.

# CANINE CAPITAL OF THE UK

Keswick and the Lake District are officially the most dog-friendly places in the UK. For the last three years, Keswick has been crowned the top town in the UK for dogs in the Kennel Club's Be Dog Friendly Awards.

The Lake District won the Great Outdoors category in the awards in 2015.

The annual Be Dog Friendly Awards aim to recognise and reward places and businesses that go out of their way to welcome dogs.



# HADRIAN'S WALL PATH

Hadrian's Wall Path is 84 miles long and stretches from Wallsend in Tyne and Wear to Bowness on Solway, in Cumbria.

Along the trail, walkers will stumble upon some of the UK's most breathtaking views, encompassing rolling hills, moorland, and vibrant city landscapes.

Dogs are welcome to walk the route, but owners should be aware of livestock along the central parts of the trail.

For further information visit [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk)



At the finish/start of the Hadrian's Wall Path in Bowness on Solway.



The Pheasant.

## PLACES TO EAT

### ● The Pheasant, Bassenthwaite

— situated between the towns of Keswick and Cockermouth, this authentic coaching inn is very dog friendly; don't be surprised to see almost as many dogs as people inside the pub's bar and lounges. The menu serves high-quality food and the inn has a welcoming atmosphere. It also doubles up as a dog-friendly hotel; well-behaved dogs are welcome to stay in some of the bedrooms, for a cost of £10 per night. For further information visit [www.the-pheasant.co.uk](http://www.the-pheasant.co.uk) or call 01768 776234.

### ● The Bridge Hotel, Buttermere

— dogs receive a warm welcome at The Bridge, where they are allowed in the Walkers' Bar which serves meals throughout the day. You will find a box of dog treats behind the bar. The hotel also has six self-catering apartments where dogs can stay. For further information visit [www.bridge-hotel.com](http://www.bridge-hotel.com) or call 01768 770252.



The magical Lakes.

## PLACES TO STAY

### ● Low Nest Farm, Castlerigg

— a family-run business located two miles from Keswick, which offers dog-friendly rooms on a bed and breakfast basis. The B&B has a breakfast room, where dogs are welcome, a lounge, and a kitchen which guests can use. There are welcome packs for canine guests, spare towels, and throws and blankets are provided for furniture. Low Nest Farm also has several self-catering studios which also welcome dogs. The farm has 120 acres of pasture land and meadow, including an enclosed exercise field.

The business is run by sisters, Angela Healy and Alison True, who have a wealth of knowledge of the area. Alison has written guides featuring dog walks in the Lake District, which people can buy online.

A double en suite room costs between £70 and £85 per night for two people including a full English breakfast. There is a charge of £4 per dog per night, up to a maximum of £20. For further information visit [www.lownestfarm.co.uk](http://www.lownestfarm.co.uk) and [www.dogfriendlylakedistrictwalks.co.uk](http://www.dogfriendlylakedistrictwalks.co.uk)

### ● Honister Cottage, Seatoller

— a charming, dog-friendly cottage in the Borrowdale Valley, situated at the foot of Honister Pass. The 400-year-old cottage is surrounded by breathtaking Cumbrian countryside. At the back of the property there is a big garden leading down to a river. Dog bowls for food and water are provided. Available for weekly lets and short breaks.

For further information visit [www.discoverparadigm.com](http://www.discoverparadigm.com) or call 01900 825011.



Dog-friendly Low Nest Farm.



Crummock Water is a great place to take dogs.

# DOWN IN THE VALLEY

**T**his National Trust walk through Lanthwaite Wood, alongside Crummock Water, gives walkers spectacular views of the Buttermere fells and Grasmoor.

Owners are asked to keep their dogs under close control while walking the route and not to let them foul on paths or around picnic areas.

For more National Trust walks in Cumbria visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

## AT A GLANCE

**Distance:** 4 miles.

**Time:** 2½ hours.

**Terrain:** Some rough or wet paths, and two climbs.

**How to get there:** The walk begins at Lanthwaite Wood National Trust car park, which is off the B5289.

## THE ROUTE

**1** Leave the car park through the small gate at the far end from the road. Turn right on to the footpath that runs alongside the River Cocker and follow it all the way to Crummock Water. After heavy rain this path can be quite wet; if this is the case, follow the forest track instead.

**2** The path brings you to the source of the Cocker, and one of the district's best viewpoints. From here, follow the track that runs along the left-hand side of the lake through Lanthwaite Wood, followed by High Wood.

**3** The lakeside path passes through two large fields after leaving High Wood, before entering a long narrow field filled with gorse bushes. Follow the path along the lake shore to the far end of the field, then turn left and follow the grassy path that climbs up to the higher side of the field. Turn left, staying inside the field, and follow the path that runs along the upper edge of all three fields back to High Wood.

**4** At High Wood, a gate leads on to a road. Cross the road and head straight across the hillside towards Grasmoor End (look for a suitable path through the bracken).

**5** You will come to a major path running across the hillside. Turn

left on to this path and follow it all the way to Liza Beck, where it emerges from Gasgale Gill, between Grasmoor and Whiteside.

**6** Turn left at the beck and head down the line of an old drainage ditch towards the Iron Age homestead, a series of sunken platforms between the ditch and Liza Beck. After exploring the homestead, continue in the same direction towards the road you crossed earlier.

**7** Turn right on to the road, then turn left on to the next signposted footpath running along a narrow lane between stone walls. Follow this to the edge of Lanthwaite Wood.

**8** Just inside the woods, turn right on to a narrow footpath. This follows the edge of the wood, then climbs up on to Brackenthwaite Hows — once a famous viewing station.

**9** Brackenthwaite Hows has two summits. Follow the path from the first to the second, then curve away to the left to follow a ridge leading into the woods.

Follow the path as it drops down Dick Robins' Steps, and then on to a forestry track. Turn left on to this track, then right at the next junction to return to the starting point.



Map: © Crown copyright 2016  
Ordnance Survey, Media 017/16.



Pic: VisitEngland, Cumbria Tourism.

The Borrowdale Valley is great for walking.



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## Does your dog pull?

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# Benson bounces

In his short life, Benson has had a lot to cope with, but he's come smiling through!



Our November 2015 issue.

**Y**our Dog readers were captivated by our November 2015 cover star.

With his irresistible smile and brilliant blue eyes, Border Collie Benson was every inch the perfect cover model.

But little did anyone know that when the pictures were taken, the youngster's biggest

challenge was yet to come, as his owner Lorna Pollard, from Bagshot, Surrey, explained.

"We felt really privileged to have Benson on the cover of Your Dog Magazine but that's not the only reason he is our little star.

"He was seven weeks old when the photographs were taken and came to us at eight



"Our poor little chap had by then spent 10 weeks in his crate — that was a third of his life..."

Benson's grown up into a handsome young man!



# back

weeks, from his breeder, Alison Carey. We already have his sister Tilly, from his parents' previous litter."

When Benson reached 13 weeks old, Lorna noticed that his front paws were at an odd angle; his gait was 'bear-like' and his front legs looked rather like a Basset Hound's.

After a visit to the vet's, Benson was diagnosed with a condition called carpal valgus and referred to Fitzpatrick Referrals in Surrey.

A dog's forelimb, stretching from the elbow to the wrist or carpus, comprises two bones, the ulna and the radius, just like a human arm.

In this condition, the radius grows normally but the ulna doesn't, and the result is that the bones develop rather like a bow, with the ulna acting like the string and the radius bending because both bones are connected to the same joints at each end.

"At Fitzpatrick Referrals we were seen by Professor Noel Fitzpatrick himself, who operated on Benson that night," said Lorna.

"If the condition had been left to progress, Benson's front legs would have become so deformed that he would have tripped over his paws and probably ended up with pain

in his elbows due to poor fit."

The treatment appropriate for Benson's condition was firstly to 'cut the bow string' by removing a segment of each ulna.

But one of the challenges with this approach is the risk of the ulna repairing itself too quickly, and re-establishing the condition. "Noel warned us that a repeat operation would be necessary if the ulnas knitted together too quickly," explained Lorna. Benson also had a wire bridge implanted across the growth plate at the bottom of his radius. The purpose of this was to stop the deformity getting worse.

## ON THE MEND

"As you might imagine, Benson had some difficulty walking immediately after this, sitting down every few steps," recalled Lorna. "But, as time passed, he gradually improved and by the time four weeks had gone by and he was due for a check-up, the slow lead walking we were asked to enforce had become a challenge in its own right!"

At the check-up it became clear that Benson's ulnas had repaired too quickly, which meant a second operation, and later, when the screws and wires were ready to come



Benson with big sister Tilly.

out, it was decided to remove yet more bone — Benson's third op. "Our poor little chap had by then spent 10 weeks in his crate — that was a third of his life — and had worn an Elizabethan collar all that time, except for a two-week break. All that and he wasn't even seven months old," said Lorna.

"So you can see he is our little star. He is so laid-back and coping very well with everything that has been thrown at him. When he goes to Fitzpatrick Referrals it's always with a wagging tail; he's happy to see everyone.

"It hasn't been easy for any of us, not least Tilly, who is desperate to play with her baby brother.

"Throughout this time we've kept in close touch with Alison, Benson's breeder, who's been incredibly supportive. Alison was devastated when she knew what had happened to one of her puppies but now that the initial shock is behind us and Benson is getting better, she too is looking forward to his full recovery and a bright future ahead.

"We still have some way to go but we're getting there!"

## STOP PRESS

Lorna was awaiting another check-up as we went to press. "He is still a work in progress," she explained. "But before all Benson's problems started he was going to obedience classes and was showing that he had the makings of a good obedience dog. I spoke to the lady who runs the club we attend and she has enrolled him on a nine-week companion dog course with the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award test at the end. He did very well on his first lesson, socialising with 13 other dogs of all shapes and sizes."

## THE EXPERT'S VIEW

Professor Noel Fitzpatrick said: "When presented with a puppy like Benson, with a growth deformity, the only concern is welfare going forward, which means that all surgical intervention should be aimed at relieving pain and promoting quality of life. It's not uncommon in human children with limb deformity to have several operations just like Benson, because growth is unpredictable. In Benson's case we could in fact cut his radius bones and make his legs perfectly straight, now that he is grown, but he's not in pain and we don't operate ever for cosmetic reasons.

"Mild deformity is generally tolerated well as long as the elbow and wrist joints fit together properly and pain-free walking and running is possible. We're all excited that Benson can hopefully now lead a long and happy life."



Pics: George Pollard





Stay safe in the countryside with news and advice from access adviser **Stephen Jenkinson**.



#### ABOUT STEPHEN

Stephen Jenkinson is an expert on where you can go, and what you can do with your dog. He's access adviser to Your Dog Magazine, the Kennel Club, and local councils across the UK and abroad. He lives in Orkney with his Border Collie, Jess.

**The Maremma was developed to protect livestock from wolves and bears.**

# The penguins' friend!

**A** new film, 'Oddball and the Penguins', hit UK cinemas last month with further evidence of how dogs can be good for wildlife.

This family film tells the true story of how fairy penguins

were in danger of extinction on Middle Island, near Melbourne, in Australia, until Maremma Sheepdog Oddball was enlisted to scare away the foxes that walked over to the island at low tide to eat these flightless birds.

This dog breed was originally developed by shepherds on the Maremma Plains of Tuscany, Italy, to protect sheep from wolves and bears. But in Oddball's case, she'd been brought up on a chicken farm where she

protected the hens from foxes, prompting her owner to see if she'd protect penguins too — and she did!

At 14 years old 'Oddy' has now retired and the penguins' protection is now handled by two female Maremmas.

## YOUR Qs & As

**Q** My behaviourist suggested I put a muzzle on my Border Collie Gus. He's currently a bit snappy when strange dogs run up to him, as he was recently attacked in the park. But I'm now worried it might affect my home (I'm a council tenant), as I've been told people have complained to the dog warden that using the muzzle proves I'm keeping a dangerous dog. J.M., email address.

**STEPHEN SAYS:** That's so unfair if they have complained, as to me

a muzzle is a sign of a really responsible dog owner; I'm sure the council will feel the same, especially as you are seeing a behaviourist.

If you are still concerned, give the dog warden a friendly call (far better than an email in the first instance) to find out the truth — most will be keen to help and support you.

In any case, you also have the legal right to know — with a few exceptions — what your local council has on file about you; see [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) for more about your information rights.



**Look out for warning signs.**

## HOW YOU AND YOUR DOG CAN PROTECT WILDLIFE

March 1 is when the UK's rarest birds start nesting and raising their chicks on the ground, particularly in upland areas of England, Scotland, and Wales, and lowland heaths in southern England.

While few dogs intentionally attack chicks or raid nests, dogs running around off-lead in these areas scare mother birds from their nests, meaning their eggs and chicks perish from the cold or get eaten by predators.

So, dog walkers are again being asked to comply with local signs requesting that dogs are kept on short leads — or do not stray from well-used paths — when crossing sensitive ground-nesting bird areas, until August 1.

Most dogs still need off-lead exercise though, and so local councils and land managers are increasingly promoting areas where dogs can be off-lead at this time without endangering wildlife.

Ask your local council's access rangers about the best places for wildlife-friendly off-lead exercise at this time of year. In some areas, like Dorset, there's online guides to help; visit [www.dorsetdogs.org.uk](http://www.dorsetdogs.org.uk)



The new Dog Walking Code for England and Wales — endorsed by the Kennel Club — will help you to have safe and hassle-free walks at any time of year. Download a copy at [www.dogwalkingcode.org.uk](http://www.dogwalkingcode.org.uk)



## Signs of the times

'Private Road' signs are sometimes used to intimidate walkers. In fact many public paths run along privately-owned tracks. Far better to use a sign that clarifies if there's a right to walk or not.





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## Getting a kitten?

The Your Cat Kitten Guide is the definitive guide to kitten ownership, leading potential kitten owners through the first year — from selecting their new feline friend to seeing him (or her) grow into a healthy and happy adult cat. Buy your copy for £5.99 from [www.yourcatshop.co.uk](http://www.yourcatshop.co.uk)





# When Dusty came home

Some dogs hold a special place in our hearts. Reader **Lesley Andrews** recalls the story of her much-loved pet who made it home against the odds.



Dusty as a tiny pup on the first day at Lesley's home.

**T**here have been many dogs in my life, but without a doubt, the first one to capture my heart was Dusty, our Yorkshire Terrier.

Dusty joined our family 52 years ago when I was five years old. Mum brought him home; a sooty ball of fur with legs, chest, and moustache the colour of ginger biscuits. Tiny he may have been as a pup, but he was huge in character from the start — a true Yorkshire Tyke.

He was no show dog but he grew to be a robust, sturdy pet with drop ears and fur which was too short for his breed. His stumpy tail was constantly in motion. He loved us and we loved him.

My brother was born four years later and we moved away from an inner city town to a small country village for a more rural existence, and hopefully a better quality of life. My mother, however, found it difficult to leave her family and friends behind, and most days she caught a couple of buses to visit them while I was at school. She was a familiar sight at the bus stop with baby, pushchair, and Yorkshire Terrier in tow. Sometimes in the evenings, or at weekends when my father was home, we would venture out in his little grey van to visit either his or my mother's parents.

## IN THE COUNTRY

Dusty would relish these journeys, excitedly interested in all that was happening, and ecstatic to greet friends and family at the end of our journey. Sometimes, my mother would leave me and my brother with her parents while she and my father went shopping. Dusty would take up his regular vantage point, perched on the dining table in grandma's bay window where he would gaze out of the window for hours, longing to catch sight of the grey van pulling up outside, at which he would dance with joy, ready to hurtle himself into my mother's arms.



Lesley with her current dogs, Bella (left) and Pippin.



Life in the country was such joy. I spent many happy hours playing outside, cycling up and down bridle paths and rambling through woods and fields with my friends. We feasted on sweet juicy blackberries, freshly picked from the hedgerows; we went pea-picking for pocket money, and fished for newts in the beck and ponds. Dusty would often accompany me, enjoying the tantalising smells of nature as he launched himself into the undergrowth or rustled through the autumn leaves. It was with a heavy heart therefore, that after three years, I learned that my parents had decided to move back to the town where I was born.

## DUSTY GOES MISSING

Our home sold quickly and we took up residence with my mother's parents for a short period while our new home was being renovated. Dusty resumed his place on the dining table and the days ticked slowly by. One wintery evening, my father, a carpenter, had a business trip to make into a rather rundown area of the city. Bored with the confines of my grandparents' modest back-to-back home, we children joined him in the van and took off; my brother and I perched precariously on the inner wheel arches of the van — there were no seat belt laws in those days. Dusty, as usual, kept us company and, standing squarely on all four legs, braced himself against every twist and turn in the road, happy to be with his family and in on the action.

The visit to the electrician's house was brief and we were soon venturing back to grandma's, cold yet excited to see the huge snowflakes that were floating and swirling around, changing the landscape into an eerie, white, unfamiliar world. It wasn't until we rushed into the warmth of grandma's house that we realised Dusty was missing.

What heart-stopping fear gripped our hearts as we sped off into the night, praying that Dusty would be waiting for us, bewildered but safe. There were no mobile phones back then and the electrician didn't have a landline, so by



Dusty loved being part of the family.

the time we had retraced our steps and frantically shared our news, almost an hour had elapsed.

Dismayed at the circumstances and alarmed at the heavy snow which was starting to lay thick and fast, we set out to search for our little dog. By now my grandparents had arrived in their car and they too joined the search party, striding out in the opposite direction, their voices ringing out, strangely dulled by the absorbing effect of the snow. We searched for what seemed like hours. My mother was distraught at the thought of Dusty feeling abandoned and frightened in a strange place, miles from grandma's and even further from his old home in the country. Which direction would he be heading in? Where would he go? It was with heavy hearts that we returned to my grandparents' with no dog.

**"Dusty crept across the threshold, a skeletal, shivering wreck. His coat was coarse and filthy, and his pads were bleeding..."**

The following morning my mother contacted everyone she could think of who may have been able to help. Old neighbours in our previous village were alerted to keep a watchful eye out for Dusty. Door to door visits were made to strangers' homes close to where he had gone missing. For the next few days we continued to visit the area, hoping for word of a sighting. Relentlessly, the snow continued to fall.

## BACK WHERE HE BELONGS

Over a week elapsed and we started to lose hope that Dusty would ever be found. It was becoming increasingly likely that he had become a road fatality or had died from the cold and lack of food. Friendly though he was with people he knew, he was always wary of strangers and so we couldn't imagine him being lured into any unfamiliar home or garden. The area he went missing in was interlaced with narrow estate roads and a couple of busier, more dangerous routes. And not faraway was the busy inner city A64, a notoriously fast-moving road which ran parallel to the estate where Dusty went missing.

Then, 10 days after Dusty had disappeared, we received a phone call one wintery Sunday morning. The caller was



Lesley as a little girl with the dog who won her heart.

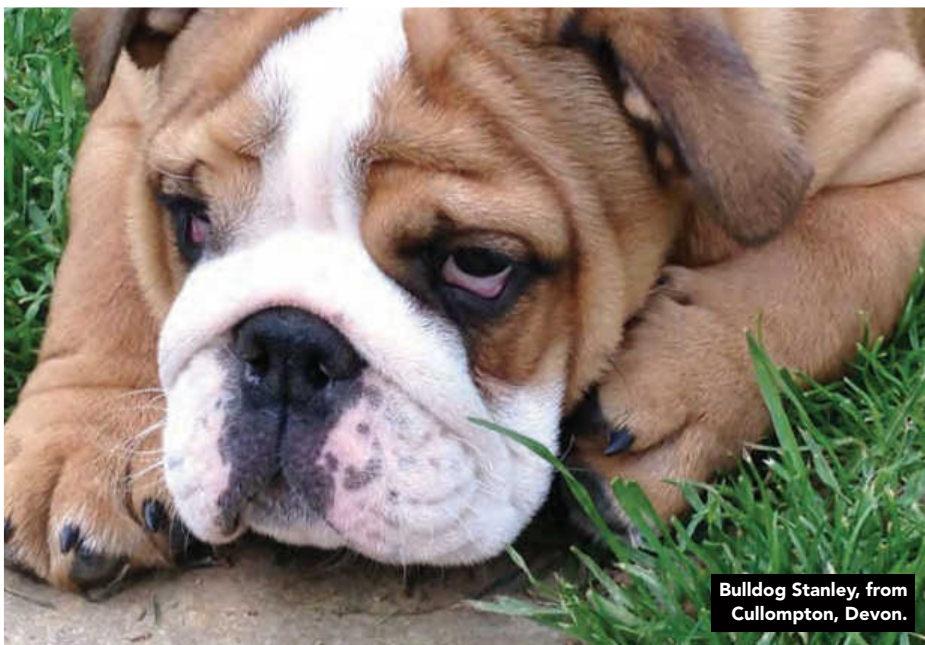
hardly recognisable as she was incoherent and crying. Dusty had 'come home'.

My father's mother, Nana, had just taken the Sunday roast out of the oven when she heard a scratching at the front door and a strange croaking noise. Cautiously she opened the door and broke down at the sight before her. Dusty crept across the threshold, a skeletal, shivering wreck. His coat was coarse and filthy, and his pads were bleeding and so worn that he could hardly bear to put them to the ground. His bark was a mere croak but he still managed to whimper with joy at their reunion. Amid her tears, Nana carved some beef up and fed it to the ravenous little dog. Then she cradled him in her arms and rang my grandma's house to share the miraculous news.

That Dusty safely navigated the busy 'A' road was difficult enough to comprehend, but the greatest miracle was that he found his way to Nana's. He had only ever visited her by vehicle and had never been taken for a walk in the area. Her house was 10 miles from our old village home and seven miles from my other grandparents. It was, however, the nearest family home to the area where Dusty had gone missing. How he located her house and navigated the journey safely would remain a mystery, known only to him. Since that amazing day, my grandparents and father have all died, but the rest of my family and all who knew us then, still marvel at the day Dusty came home.



**Bedlington Terrier**  
Bertie, from East  
Boldon, Tyne and Wear.



**Bulldog Stanley, from**  
Cullompton, Devon.

# The GALLERY

Is your dog a star in the making? Get snapping and send us your best pet photos and your dog could appear in our gallery. Our line-up of canine stars this month includes...

**Labradors Alfie and Sydney, and**  
**Leonbergers Russia, Tibet, and India,**  
from Priors Marston, Warwickshire.



**Jack Russell X Poodle**  
Lola, from Cheshunt,  
Hertfordshire.



**Cockerpoo Biscuit,**  
from Helsby,  
Cheshire.



**Scottish Terrier**  
Max, from Needham  
Market, Suffolk.



**Springer Spaniel**  
Rosie, from  
Plymouth, Devon.



Springer Spaniel Ace,  
from Cardiff.

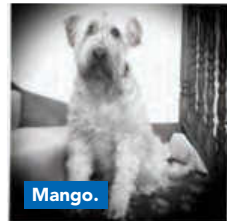
# TOP DOG MARCH



Alfie.



Coco.



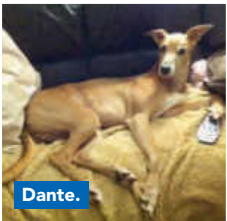
Mango.



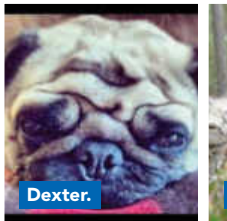
Chester.



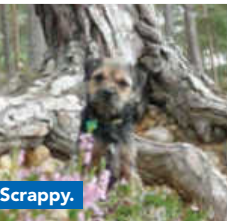
Roxie.



Dante.



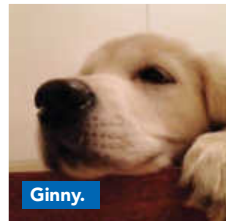
Dexter.



Scrappy.



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a pic and tell us your  
dog's name!



Ginny.



Greyhound Halley,  
from Houghton Regis,  
Bedfordshire.



Jack Russell X Springer  
Spaniel Charlie, from  
Foxdale, Isle of Man.



Kangal Dog Khan and  
Border Collie Kodi, from  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.



Border Collie Toddy,  
from Leeds.

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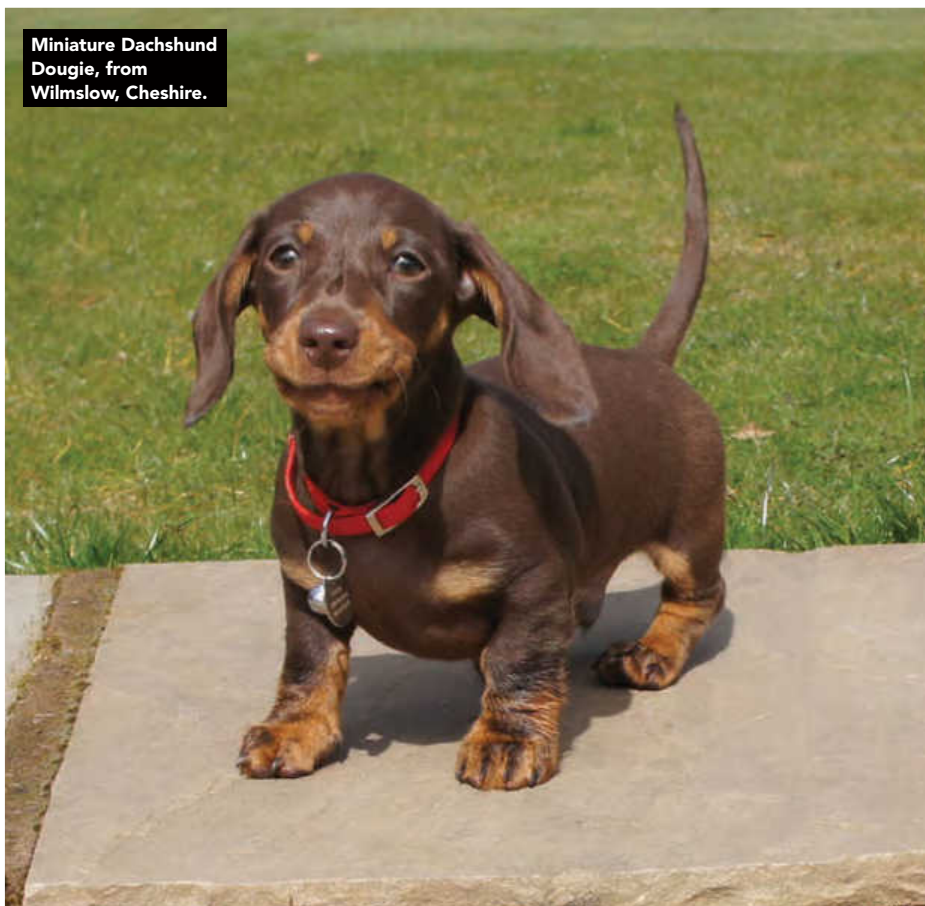




**German Shepherd  
Monza, from  
Chorley, Lancashire.**



**Cocker Spaniel Winnie,  
from Aldershot, Hampshire.**



**Miniature Dachshund  
Dougie, from  
Wilmslow, Cheshire.**



**Jack Russell Jessie,  
from Lossiemouth,  
Morayshire.**



**West Highland White  
Terrier Maggie, from  
Cannock, Staffordshire.**



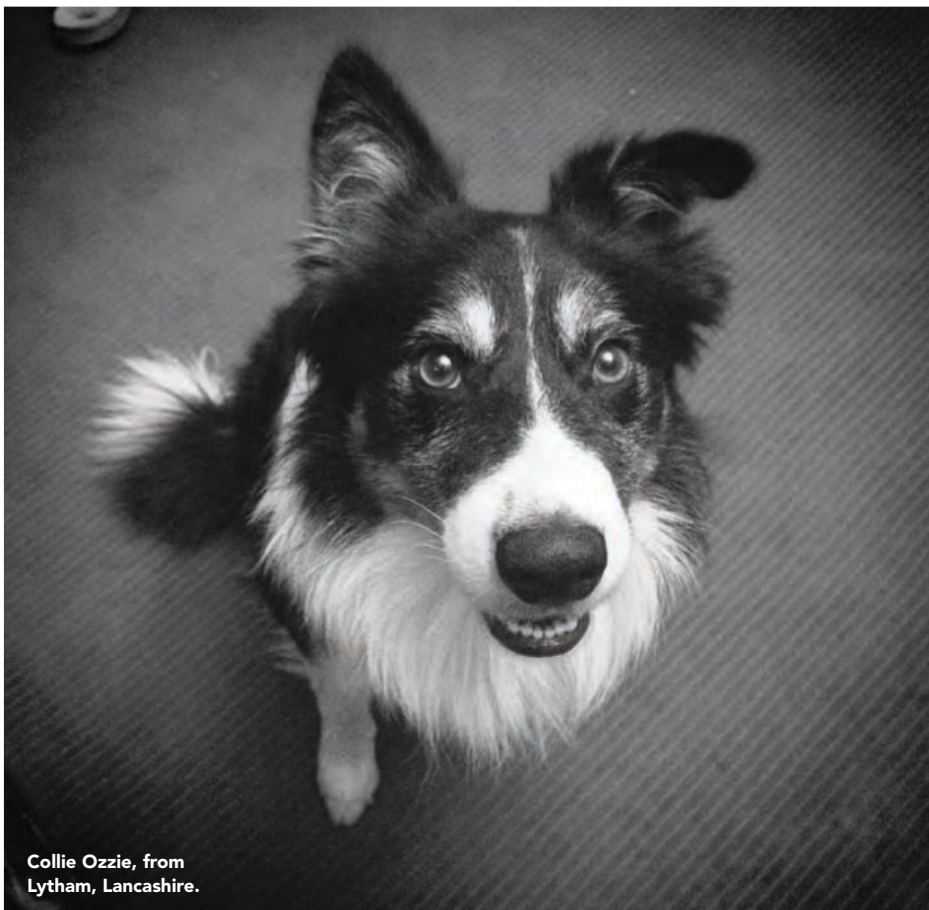
**West Highland White  
Terrier X Papillon  
Bailey, from St Helens,  
Merseyside.**



Lhasa Apso Bonnie, from Amesbury, Wiltshire.



Collie Ozzie, from Lytham, Lancashire.



Xerco and Otto.



Olga.



Border Collie X Labrador Stout and Labrador Prince, from Haslingden, Lancashire.



Golden Retriever Billie, from Paddock Wood, Kent.



Share your doggy photos on Facebook [www.facebook.com/yourdogmagazine](http://www.facebook.com/yourdogmagazine) and they could appear on these pages — post a pic and tell us your dog's name!

Archie.



Inka.



Karma.



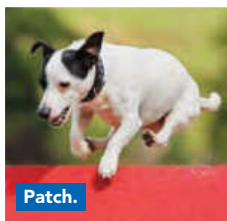
Taz.



Milo.



Patch.



Bruce.



Jack Russell X Chihuahua Cody, from Crowborough, Sussex.







**Cockerpoo  
Baxter, from  
Manchester.**



**Staffordshire Bull Terrier X  
Border Collie Bobby, from  
Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.**



**Labrador  
Hartley, from  
Chelmsford,  
Essex.**



**Labrador X Border Collie  
Olly, from Long Eaton,  
Nottinghamshire.**



**Pug Minnie,  
from London**



**Havanese Rusty,  
from Finchampstead,  
Berkshire.**

## The GALLERY

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# RESCUE CENTRES

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www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk

**Pine Ridge Dog Sanctuary**  
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pineridgedogs@yahoo.co.uk

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**Bullies In Need**  
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www.bulliesinneed.info  
Rescue enquiries: rescue@bulliesinneed.info  
Telephone: 07780 541143

**National Animal Welfare Trust**  
www.nawt.org.uk  
0208 950 0177  
Rescue centres in:  
• Berkshire • Cornwall • Essex  
• Hertfordshire • Somerset

**Battersea Dogs & Cats Home**  
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London, SW8 4AA  
**Battersea Old Windsor**  
Priest Hill, Old Windsor, SL4 2JN  
**Battersea Brands Hatch**  
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0843 509 4444  
battersea.org.uk

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## website!

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- Local information.
- Dog-friendly property listings.

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# [www.yourdogholidays.co.uk](http://www.yourdogholidays.co.uk)



## HOW TO...

# Take the perfect photo of your dog

Preserve those special memories by taking a brilliant photo of your canine companion.

### 1. Pick the right location

If your picture is indoors, place the dog in an area where there is natural light, such as by a window. Flash is best avoided as the image will often be unflattering. Heading outdoors gives you a choice of interesting backgrounds. Pick a day when there is good light as this will make the image much crisper and easier to capture.

Make it fun for your dog. If he's enjoying himself it will show in the photos.



YD photographer Graham Warren recommends:  
ISO: 100 – 200;  
shutter speed: 1/500 sec.

### 2. Picture type

#### Action shot

For a photo of your dog on the go, you'll need a fast shutter speed to capture the dog sharply in focus, while keeping the ISO rating low to avoid grainy shots. Do this outside on a bright day so you don't have to worry about the light and make sure your camera is set on auto focus. Then it's all about timing your picture right.

If you can't use manual settings on your camera switching it to sports/action mode may help. Taking an action picture on a phone is almost impossible so choose to take portrait shots instead.

### 3. Find an assistant

While you take charge of the camera, get someone to help you set things up. Your friend can hold treats or wave a toy from behind the camera to get your dog to look towards it — just make sure your assistant is not in shot!

To get your dog to look at the camera vary the sounds; don't just repeatedly call his name. You could try using a squeaker to get his attention.

Keep your camera handy at all times, with the battery charged, so you're ready to capture those funny or cute, spontaneous moments.

With the right set up you'll get a great picture.



### Portrait picture

For a general picture choose a nice background and try to get your dog to strike a pose. Make sure he stands out and is the main focus of the photo. You can easily do this using your camera phone. A head shot of your dog, which focuses on his eyes and blurs out the background, can work well too.

### 4. Interesting angles

Try shooting from different angles to get a creative picture. Often you will have to get down to your dog's level to get the best picture so don't be afraid to lie on the ground.

### 5. Be patient

You'll rarely get the best photo at the first attempt. As long as your dog is happy, keep working at it and try different set ups.



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